

AUSTRALIA'S DYNAMIC ELECTRONICS MONTHLY!

# Electronics Today

INTERNATIONAL

eti

DECEMBER  
1984

\$2.50\*  
NZ \$3.25

## 'MINDMASTER'

Human-computer link to build

### PROJECTS:

High quality  
radio microphone

PA Speaker  
columns

Two low-cost  
CROs reviewed

The TV set  
goes digital



SCOOP REVIEW  
New KEF Speakers!

**PRICE  
BREAKTHROUGH!**

# Beeple: the \$99 pocket pager

## At last there's a pocket radio pager that YOU can afford.

The Beeple. A small, lightweight and reliable unit that costs a tiny fraction of previous models. It's a price breakthrough!

### What's a Beeple?

It's an instantly accessible automatic radio paging system activated by a simple telephone call. Just dial up the special number and a 'beep' sounds on the Beeple.

Inside the Beeple is an incredibly sensitive radio receiver capable of picking up signals in really bad locations, plus the decoding & logic circuitry necessary to analyse which signal is being received.

All Beebles share a common radio frequency, which helps keep the cost way, way down. It's up to the Beeple to decide whether the signal is for it; if so, it sounds the beep.

Clever, isn't it!

Because each Beeple can have up to four different access numbers (and four different beeps) you can have a system where you know by the sound of the beep who wants you. It's so simple.

Even more, it has a memory facility - in case you're in the middle of an important meeting and don't want to be disturbed. Not even to tell you you've won the lottery and you don't even need to be at work any more!

### Where can you use your Beeple?

Virtually anywhere in the Sydney or Melbourne metropolitan areas - and up to about 100km outside.

That means your Beeple should work from about Newcastle to Wollongong and out to the Mountains from Sydney. Or down to Geelong, out on the bay, down the Peninsula and up as far as Ballarat from Melbourne.

(Obviously range is limited at the extremes by topography and conditions).

Later on, it is expected that Beeple will be available in all capital cities and possibly some larger country centres too.

But that's in the future. Right now, it's Sydney and Melbourne.

### Who needs a Beeple?

You do!

Businesses have recognised their value for years. Key personnel have been accessible at any time. Even staff 'on the road' have been contactable.

So why should John (or Jill) Citizen own a

beeper?

Think of the times you've been away from home and needed to be contacted.

Sometimes trivial, sometimes important - but always impossible to do anything about.

Until now . . . with the Beeple:

Let's imagine Dad's at the station and wants a lift home: and you've gone next door or down to the shops. With the Beeple, you could go anywhere.

Or you go out to a show and spend the whole time wondering if the babysitter has everything under control. Take the Beeple along and you know you can be contacted if something really is wrong!

Or the kids arrive home from school and you're still out. They don't know what's happened to you. With the Beeple they can find out where you are.

Or an elderly relative or neighbour is ill: and you can't go out just in case they need help. With the Beeple, you're no more than a phone call away.

Or little Johnny goes out to visit his mates a few streets away. You start to worry when he hasn't come home and ring everyone you can think of. If he had a Beeple in his pocket one call would tell him to come home!

And there are thousands of other uses!

As you can see, it's not just Dad who needs one. Mums and Housewives find them indispensable. The kids can use the Beeple.

**Everyone** can use the Beeple. That's why it's called the Beeple: The Beeper for People!

### Where does it come from?

Beeple is manufactured by the world-famous electronics giant STC, and is serviced by Voicecall, the largest private radio common carrier in Australia.

Because of Dick Smith Electronics wide distribution network, Voicecall suggested that we should include the Beeple in our product range. And seeing the incredible potential of this product breakthrough, we readily agreed!



### How much does a Beeple cost?

Unlike most previous models of pocket radio pager, you buy the Beeple outright for the amazingly low price of just \$99.

Compare this with many of the 'leased' systems still around now which cost \$40, \$50

and more per month! The Beeple is incredibly inexpensive!

Charges for the Beeple service vary depending on the number of telephone numbers or "tones" you want. The more you get the cheaper each line becomes! Yearly charges are: 1 line \$84, 2 lines \$104, 3 lines \$124 and 4 lines are only \$144.

This includes the telephone line rental charge from Telecom, the use of the network of Voicecall radio transmitters to get your paging message out and a service and maintenance agreement which will look after your Beeple for you!

Even in the first year of operation when you have to take into account the yearly charge PLUS the purchase price, you will still be so far ahead of leased pager rates you'll be laughing.

The following year the savings are even greater!

And remember, if you use the Beeple in any type of business, the charge and the purchase price should be tax deductible!

### How do you get a Beeple?

Simple! You go in to your nearest Dick Smith Electronics store in Sydney or Melbourne.

They'll be able to demonstrate the Beeple, show you how to operate it and, best of all, sell you one. Or more!

And they'll also be able (on behalf of Voicecall) to activate your Beeple **on the spot**: you'll walk out of the store with it completely operational! No messy forms to send away and wait weeks for authorisation. It's working from day one!

**ONLY \$99**

**DICK SMITH ELECTRONICS**  
PTY LTD

Available in our Sydney and Melbourne area stores only (inc. Newcastle, Gosford, Wollongong and Geelong).

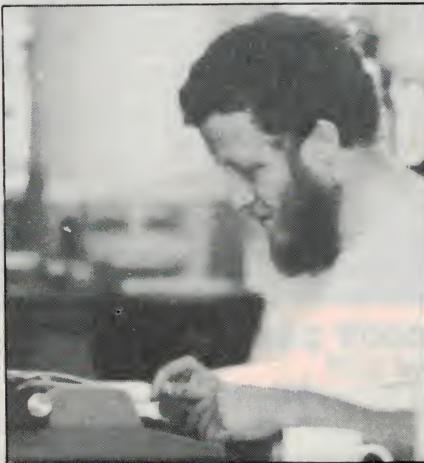
**T**HE FESTIVE SEASON is, by tradition, a time of reflection on the past and rumination on the future — of taking stock, of looking backward and forward from a pivotal point, a fork in the road if you like.

What we've done in the past year can be seen in the magazine (for better or worse, depending on your point of view!). We've introduced a few 'new tacks' (in sailors' parlance) and time will tell if we're sailing in the right direction — or not. We've tackled a few 'issues' and, judging by reactions, that's something we'll continue to do. We've also 'brought back' a few topics we've not tackled for a few years — and with your support, they'll continue. So, for the past, we stand on our public record.

What of the future? Problem is, as soon as you predict the future — you change it! (Maybe I should stop right here!). Well, we have a few more 'tacks' on the drawing board (pardon the pun) for the good ship "ETI". Without letting any cats out of the bag, next year we'll be taking a close look at satellites and Australia, from both the users' and the industry's viewpoints — because 1985 will be an important year for Australia in this regard. We'll be taking a look at developments in the consumer electronics marketplace — for that will influence what products we'll all be exposed to, and buying (or not buying!) next year. And what about computing? The Australian scene is currently in something of a watershed on every front, from home computers on up, while the industry sorts itself out. We'll be in there — reporting, commenting ( . . . stirring a little . . . ). Projects? — keep feeding us *your* ideas and comments, that way we can come up with the sort of things generally in demand. But we have a couple of exciting developments percolating along there in the back room . . .

Ruminate on that lot in the afterglow of Christmas dinner! Season's greetings and a fulfilling new year to all our loyal readers, advertisers and colleagues from all of us here at ETI.

**Roger Harrison**  
Editor



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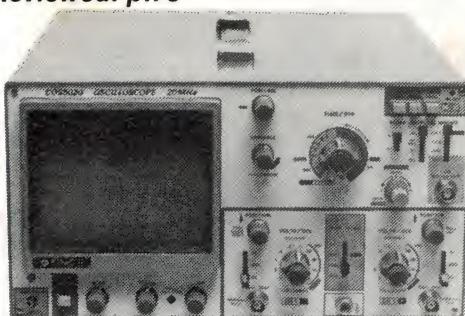
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**THE TV GOES DIGITAL**

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**LOW-COST COMPACT CRO**

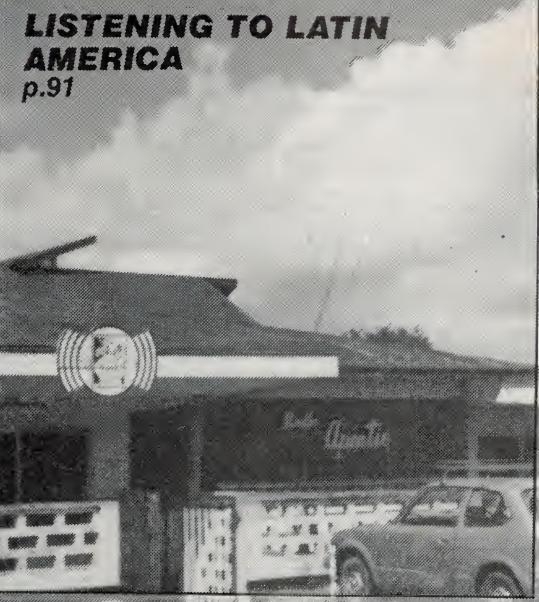
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This page is to assist readers in the continual search for components, kits, printed circuit boards and other parts for ETI projects and circuits. If you are looking for a particular item or project and it is not mentioned here, check with our advertisers.

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On a limited budget, but need a CRO — see Geoff Wood!
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With Hewlett-Packard's Thinkjet printer; quiet as a . . .

## NEXT MONTH

'CHATTERBOX'  
VOICE SYNTHESISER

We promised this back in January . . . And here it comes! A voice synthesiser that can be driven from a Centronics or 8-bit parallel port on your computer. It features inflexion, is low in cost and simple to drive.

Software provided for the Microbee, Apple . . . and maybe a few other popular ones.

SIMPLE DARKROOM  
EXPOSURE METER

Employing an 'opto op-amp', this simple project uses three LEDs to show 'under', 'over', or 'correct' exposure for photography enthusiasts who do their own B&W prints. The project costs under \$20 and is easy to put together and get going.

LEDS to show 'under', 'over', or 'correct' exposure for photography enthusiasts who do their own B&W prints. The project costs under \$20 and is easy to put together and get going.

JAPAN: REGROUP  
— ATTACK!

Dennis Lingane reports on the Japanese electronics and audio shows. It seems mass-market hi-fi is dead — long live "new media"! This authoritative report gives a breakdown on where the Japanese consumer electronics industry is heading.

## MADE IN MY IMAGE

The video revolution will carry us far beyond what's offered on the surface. Malcolm Goldfinch philosophises on the implications of home video movie-making technology.

COMMODORE PLUS-4  
COMPUTER REVIEWED

Not content with the success of their VIC-20 and 64 home computers, Commodore stride ahead with an interesting new machine. Mark Lingane reviews this 'new generation 64' — is it "... one step closer to the ultimate personal computer"? Maybe.

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# HOLD IT!

Anywhere you want it...

## SCOPE PANAVISE

Work holding system with  
Interchangeable heads and bases.

### 1 TAKE A BASE

NOTE 300 & 305 CAN BE SCREWED DIRECT TO BENCH



300 STANDARD BASE

Holds all regular PANAVISE heads and Circuit Board Holders. The patented load control knob and exclusive split-ball feature have a range of tension which permits moving of work to any position desired.

305 LOW PROFILE BASE

The Low Profile Base has all the tilts, turns and load control features as in the Standard PANAVISE base. Only 2½" (64mm) high.

380 VACUUM BASE

Moving the black-tipped lever arm attaches the Vacuum Base instantly with a firm grip, without marring, to smooth non-porous surfaces.

336 UP/DOWN CONVERTER BASE

An attachment for the 325 Up/Down Positioner giving the additional dimension of variable height (14" or 255mm).

### 2 ADD A HEAD

5 INTERCHANGEABLE  
HEADS tilt, turn and  
rotate, then lock in  
any position.



303 STANDARD HEAD

The top selling head, it has jaws 2½" (63.5mm) wide which open 2¼" (57.2mm). The tough yet gentle nylon jaws have a satin finish to improve grip.

315 CIRCUIT BOARD HOLDER

(Extra Arms Available)  
Holds p.m boards, any shape and size to 12" (304mm) wide (including the S100) exactly where you want them — flat, vertically, or any angle in between when used in a PANAVISE base.

366 WIDE OPENING HEAD

Opens a full 6" (152mm) with jaw width of 1¾" (44.5mm). The contoured neoprene jaws provide a cushion over the steel jaw plates to gently yet firmly hold delicate items.

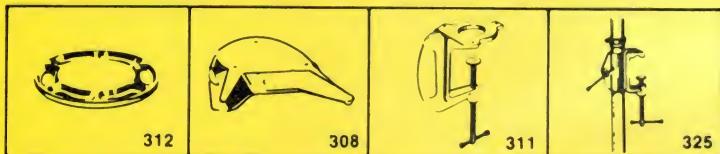
337 FIXTURING HEAD

Permanent fixturing for production line assembly or repetitive repair work can be designed and bolted to this head easily with its six slots and bolt holes. The flat ground surface is 5 3/8" (137mm) in diameter.

376 SELF-CENTERING HEAD

(Extra Wide Opening Head)  
Double Action Jaws. Allows fast opening and closing.  
Large Capacity - Opens to a full 9". Reversible Jaw Pads.  
Flat one side fits all Panavise series 300 bases.

### 3 VARY THE ATTACHMENT METHOD



312 TRAY BASE MOUNT

The cast metal Tray Base Mount holds either the Standard or Low Profile PANAVISE securely and yet gives easy portability. It has six individual trays moulded into the new Base Mount.

308 WEIGHTED BASE MOUNT

This husky cast iron Base Mount weighs 5 lb (2.3 kg) giving it compactness and stability.

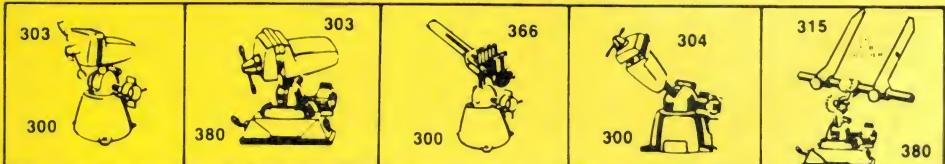
311 BENCH CLAMP-MOUNT

For the 300 or 305 base, it clamps to the edge of any work bench or table with a thickness of 3½" (89mm) or less.

325 UP/DOWN POSITIONER

For 336 Base Sit or stand when you work with the Up-Down Positioner. Adjusts up or down 14" (356mm) in seconds. Clamps to benches 2½" (63mm) or less.

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#### 1 BS601 - 20MHz/5mV with Built-in Component Tester

**\$465** ex tax  
\$538 tax paid

- Check components on screen
- 19 range timebase • Triggers to over 30MHz • 17nS risetime

#### 2 BS810 - 100MHz/1mV with 4 Channels and 8 Traces

**\$2295** ex tax  
\$2708.10 tax paid

- 2nS/div max sweep time
- Alternate time base with B ends A mode • Variable trigger hold-off
- Independent position controls
- Signal delay

#### 3 BS625 - 45MHz/1mV with Signal and Timebase Delay

**\$998** ex tax  
\$1155 tax paid

- Single sweep • Trigger delay
- 7.7nS risetime • X, Y, Dual, Chop, Add, Subtract etc

#### 4 BS310S - 15MHz/2mV Battery Portable

**\$625** ex tax  
\$724 tax paid

- Ideal for field service use
- 2 hour operation from built-in NiCads • Automatic re-charging
- Auto trigger free run • TV sync

#### 5 BS320 - 15MHz/2mV with Digital Storage and DMM

**\$2295** ex tax  
\$2708.10 tax paid

- Built-in 3½ digit multimeter
- Digital storage mode • Trigger delay • X-Y mode component tester • 3 channel operation for 3-phase measurements

#### 6 BS635 - 35MHz/1mV with Alternate and Delayed Timebase

**\$675** ex tax  
\$781 tax paid

- 21 range timebase • 100mS-1uS trigger delay • Front panel trace rotate • Multi-mode display

Optional carrying cases available for all 'scopes.

#### Coline Probes

A comprehensive range of probes and accessories is available. Modular types have pencil slim heads and detachable earth leads. They offer excellent pulse responses and very wide bandwidths. A comprehensive catalogue is available on request.

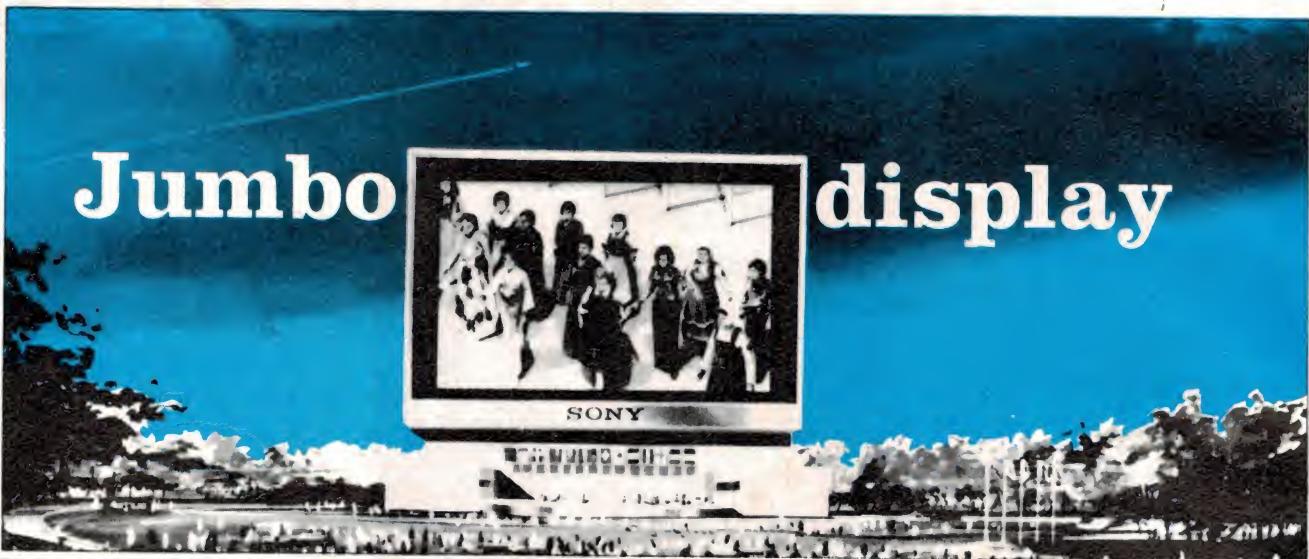
#### SP100 - 100MHz Probe

**\$25** ex tax  
\$29.00 tax paid

With x1, ref, x10 positions. 1.5m lead, BNC connector and selection of tips in heavy duty pouch.

All prices are plus sales tax if applicable and subject to change without notice.





**Elephant's eye view!** An outdoor video display measuring 52.15 m diagonally; a huge attraction at Japan's Expo '85 science and technology exposition.

**V**isitors to next year's Expo '85 science and technology exposition at Tsukuba, approximately 60 km north of Tokyo, will be treated to a widescreen outdoor video display that measures over 52 m diagonally.

Developed by Sony, the display's brightness measures over 1500 footlamberts — more than 10 times that of home TVs — for viewing in daylight. Optimum viewing distance is about 200 metres, but the display should be visible from 1 km away.

For Satoshi Shimada, general manager of the Product Planning Centre, this display provided a second chance to pioneer in large matrix array panels. Back in 1968, he developed what he claimed was the world's first full-scale matrix array display for a TV set. Its 2.62 m diagonal size was large for its time. The incandescent bulbs used as light-emitting elements were not elegant, but their use made it possible to develop the project without taking the time to invent a new type

of display device.

This time around, though, Shimada did develop a new display device. It is, in effect, an oversize vacuum fluorescent tube, but totally unlike those used in calculators or test equipment. Shimada's cell can display colour trios — individual side-by-side rectangles of red, green, and blue.

The individual cells have three electron flood sources (one for each primary colour) with a common cathode. Actual electron sources are electrons passing through individual grids, which are maintained at low positive potentials. (This type of configuration is known as a diode electron source).

Unlike conventional cathode-ray tubes in which electrons

leave the gun at high velocity, all acceleration in these cells occurs as the electrons travel from the electron sources to the phosphor screen. Total accelerating voltage at the phosphor screen is about 10 kV for high brightness and efficiency.

The cells measure 80 mm wide by 45 mm high by 25 mm deep. They are bundled in 4-by-6-cell units, which are assembled to form the 40-by 25 m screen with 378 lines vertically by 400 colour trios horizontally.

The new display differs from the conventional picture tube in which picture elements in alternate interlaced fields are illuminated in sequence as the electron beam scans across the screen. For starters, the signal is converted to a noninterlaced format with 60 complete frames. Moreover, processing and driving circuits convert the video signal to a parallel format with the primary-colour dot of each pixel con-

trolled by a separate 8-bit digital pulse-width-modulated signal. All dots are turned on simultaneously, and the fraction of the frame interval that each remains on is proportional to brightness. A high duty ratio makes possible the high brightness at reasonable accelerating voltage and beam current.

Shimada says he is particularly proud of three aspects of the display. The display tubes are designed for constant brightness despite manufacturing differences or emission slump during operation. And although the average power of 800 kW appears high, he claims that 90% of that power is in the electrons that strike the screen to produce visible emission. Moreover, he says that the display's 151 200 colour trios far exceeds those of smaller billboard-like displays.

Shimada says Sony has no plans for the unit after the exposition.

## More Oz tech going to USA

A n artificial intelligence system which its makers claim is a worldwide breakthrough was unveiled in Perth.

The West Australian Government has an eighth share in the development, now under negotiation for manufacture both in Australia and the United States.

The project, named HI-Q, is said to be a new approach to artificial intelligence. One of the keys to the security of the system, a large-scale integrated custom chip, had been commissioned from a US manufacturer.

The new technique has been

developed by Formulab Technology (Australia) Pty Ltd, which three years ago "stubbed its toe" on a particular effect.

In September last year a graphics recorder using the system of autonomic intelligence attracted widespread interest at an international electronics exhibition in Sydney.

Formulab was approached by companies from several countries.

Part of the WA Government's support of the project was the investment of \$225 000 and a place in the State's new technology park.

About 150 people are expected to be employed on the venture.

The chairman and managing director of Formulab, Mr Tony Richter, said the advantage of the new system was that it was extremely compact and cost as little as five per cent of equipment that might perform similar functions.

Mr Richter expected the recorder and other products to be on the US market by next January and in other countries later. It would also be manufactured in Australia, for sale here, in Asia and Europe.

The graphics recorder is described as a computer-like structure incorporating non-

volatile solid-state cartridges, advanced enough to be analogous to the human brain.

The record made possible the high-speed storage of more data than ever before in an extremely compact form, Mr Richter said. The recorder could, among other tasks, produce graphics for promotional and teaching purposes. Another capability was the recording of complete books in its circuits, which could be played back, cassette-style, on the recorder and read on a screen.

The computer language used is called Confluent by its authors because it has many streams, the values of which merge and expand the language.

## Hi-tech from CSIRO

The CSIRO Division of Mineral Physics is in the process of selecting commercial partners to manufacture and market SIROLOG borehole logging systems. And it hopes that proven mining company interest in acquiring SIROLOG equipment will stimulate Australian instrument and service companies to enter a high technology field which has considerable Australian and worldwide potential.

These direct measuring systems can be applied to the quantitative measurement of the ash content of coal. In open-cut coal mines, for example, SIROLOG could be used to log boreholes and obtain information that would aid mine development and production. It could also serve as a useful aid in exploration.

In mine production, the immediate analysis allows informed decisions to be made on the sequence of mining, the need for washing and the suitability for blending. In addition, SIROLOG indicates precisely the location of the coal seam/floor boundary.

A major problem in using conventional, chemical-analysis techniques is to obtain representative samples from non-core drilled holes.

While chemical assaying is precise for the samples received in the laboratory, it can only be representative of the coal *in situ* if the sampling is accurate and samples are carefully prepared for the chemical analysis.

For underground coal mines the opportunity to use the considerably cheaper percussion drilling method, in preference to diamond core drilling, is an attractive option when supported by direct SIROLOG analysis of material around the drilled holes.

On its own, percussion drilling does not provide a representative sample for chemical analysis. But, together, percussion drilling and SIROLOG analysis would provide a cost-effective means of planning the future exploitation of underground coal leases.

Both short-term exploitation strategies and long-term planning for maximum mine life are possible, based on sound knowl-

edge of the resource.

The Sirolog techniques for coal logging are well established and have been demonstrated in black coal deposits in NSW and Queensland.

The Division hopes to spark the development of an Australian and overseas market in which companies would either buy their own equipment or contract specialist logging services.

To that end, while selecting Australian firms to develop and market Sirolog systems, the Division is to design and test a Sirolog coal-ash system for an initial client.

This system is based on a spectrometric gamma-gamma technique. A gamma ray source in the Sirolog probe irradiates coal surrounding the borehole and back-scattered gamma radiation is measured spectrometrically by means of a scintillation crystal detector. Signals are amplified and transmitted by cable to a pulse height analyser system at the surface.

The data are then processed by computer, stored on magnetic discs and plotted on a chart recorder which gives a direct reading of ash content. Another version, which also identifies

major constituents in the coal, is based on the spectrometric neutron-gamma ray technique.

Commercially available coal logging devices measure the density of strata and rely on a correlation between measured density and ash content. Sirolog avoids the problems involved in this method by measuring ash content directly, and it has the further advantage that it can tolerate variations in borehole diameter.

The division sees Sirolog representing the next generation of coal-logging technology. The project was supported in part by the National Energy Research, Development and Demonstration Council.

The Division's expertise, incidentally, extends well beyond the logging of coal. It has tested the technology on other ores including those of iron, manganese, nickel, and copper. Further development of Sirolog for use with these and other metalliferous minerals is required before fully commercial systems will be available.

For more information contact CSIRO Division of Mineral Physics, PO Box 124, Port Melbourne, Vic 3207. (03) 647-0211.

## The ultimate micromanipulator

Since its introduction some 18 months ago, many new applications have emerged for the Huxley-Goodfellow micromanipulator developed by Goodfellow Metals of Cambridge England, from an original design by Sir Andrew Huxley, President of the Royal Society.

Employing different probes, the micromanipulator is currently being used in marine biology institutes in France and Britain, in electro-optics at Plessey and by the Max Planck Institute in Germany, by Cambridge, London, York and Sydney Universities in anatomy, embryology, botany and physiology; and for the alignment of optical fibres by a commercial laboratory in Australia.

In Japan both the National Institute of Biology and the National Institute of Physiology have bought Huxley-Goodfellow micromanipulators. Elsewhere the chemistry for manipulating single crystals; in genetics

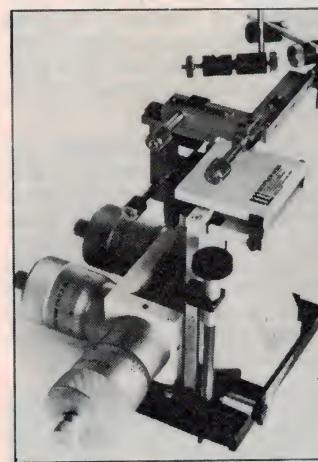
for the removal or reimplantation of nuclear material; as well as in microelectronics and microwave research.

The micromanipulator allows rapid placement in the vertical and both horizontal axes and very fine control in all three planes.

Coarse control is provided independently in each of the three axes by three separate rack-and-pinion motions, which allow rapid initial placement but can still position to an accuracy of 0.1mm without backlash.

Ultra-fine control is provided by micrometers, one in the HG-1000 and three in the HG-3000. One small division on the micrometer represents a movement of the probe of 0.2 micron to give repeatability with an accuracy of  $\pm 0.1$  micron.

For further information contact Goodfellow Metals, Scientific Instruments Division, Cambridge Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 4DJ, England.



Tell them  
you read it in ETI

## GaAs chips

Research expected to lead to a new generation of ultra-high speed microelectronic devices — capable of out-pacing today's silicon chips — will begin this month at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

A consortium of the USA's major microelectronics companies is to develop digital integrated circuits from gallium arsenide.

GaAs has the same basic structure as silicon, but electrons move faster in it.

"The objective is to demonstrate a very high speed device, but to get there, we have to solve a wide range of fundamental problems," said James Merz, the project director. "To date, the industry has concentrated on developing silicon. It is well understood, easily fabricated, and leads to good integrated circuits. But gallium arsenide is a relatively young material in terms of our scientific understanding, so there are basic aspects of it that we have yet to understand."

## BRIEFS

Standards Components has announced that its name has changed to Standard Communications. This follows a decision to concentrate on three products ranges in the communications field. They will now market Electrophone transceivers, Hitachi test instruments and Kingray TV equipment.

**Printronics**, Australia's largest manufacturer of printed circuit boards has commenced the manufacture of multilayer boards. Printronics claim this is the first fully commercial venture in Australia to produce multilayer boards. According to the company volume production will allow the company to be very competitive with imports and general specifications will be up to military standards. The maximum number of layers will be 14.

Acme electronics, the business unit of Hardie Trading, is moving its office and warehouse to 205 Middleborough Rd, Box Hill, Vic 3128.

**Mr Tony Richardson** has joined Elmeasco instruments as Industrial Products specialist. He will be primarily involved in selling Fluke industrial products. Before joining Elmeasco he had extensive experience in sophisticated process control equipment in Europe and Australia.

The Bayswater branch of Telcon Australia has outgrown its present premises. They are now situated on the corner of London Rd and Amstead Drive. The new premises has almost twice the space of the old one.

Mr Damien Walters has been appointed General Manager of Intergraph Corp. Mr Walters has a degree in Electrical Engineering and a background in design drafting and the electrical trades. He has spent the last seven years with GEC in a variety of roles.

Mr Greg Hughes has been appointed to the position of General Manager of AWA's Ashfield plant. Mr Hughes is an economics graduate from Sydney University and has been with AWA for the last twenty years. He was previously the Deputy General Manager.



LSE Electronics, the Melbourne based manufacturer of State and auditorium lighting has revised its distribution system. New agents have been appointed in Sydney and Adelaide. In Sydney, Grafton Lighting and Sound of Campbell St, has been appointed, while the Adelaide representatives will be Osmond Electronics. Three Arts Services remain the company's Melbourne and Victorian outlet.

The Department of Communications has announced that its Communications Development Division will be headed by Dr Cameron Hazelhurst, presently of the Australian National University. His appointment is for three years. He has a background of research, teaching and publishing in a range of academic areas and has held positions at Oxford, Monash and the ANU.

Mr Bernie Richardson has transferred from the UK to take up a position with Philips. He is now Product Manager for Scientific and Industrial Equipment. He joined Philips in 1966 and in the period 1974-79 was involved with the UK export division, in which capacity he had many contacts with Philips Australia.



Philips has announced the appointment of Mr John Boucher as Divisional Director for Corporate External Relations. Mr Boettcher has more than 26 years with Philips. He will act as the interface between Philips and government, university and the private sector.

The Oxford English Dictionary is about to celebrate its centenary year with a computer aided update. The \$10.8m deal involving Oxford University Press and the British Government will be to transcribe the 21 000 pages of words into a database. The first complete edition of the dictionary will be available on tape, disk or online. At present the complete Oxford consists of 12 volumes and four supplements.

Graphtec has just released a new ROM for their MP10000 Graphic plotter. The ROM will change the software protocol of the MP1000 to run under the control of the Computer Aided Design Software system called Autocad. Australian agents are Electrical Equipment, 192 Pacific Highway Arncliffe NSW 2205.

Avon, the US cosmetic giant, renowned for its 'Avon calling' sales staff is giving up its pen and paper image and moving into computers. From now on, all the Avon ladies will be equipped with a Swedish designed Micronic hand-held computer. The operator will be able to use a modem to communicate orders directly to the warehouse, thus speeding up the ordering process. The initial order, for 1000 terminals has resulted in specific software being adopted for the Avon ladies.

## EDWIN WESTWICK

It is with some shock and regret that we honour the death late in October of a respected colleague and competitor, Edwin Westwick, Managing Editor of *What's New in Electronics* and a Director of the publishers, Westwick-Farrow Pty Ltd.

Edwin was well-known in the Australian electronics industry, having been Editor of Thomson Publications' *Australian Electronics Engineering* for 10 years from 1970 to 1980. British born, Edwin had previously worked on trade journals in the UK and France prior to coming to Australia in 1964.

In 1980, Edwin and a colleague from Thomsions, Adrian Farrow, teamed up to form Westwick-Farrow Pty Ltd, and started publishing what rapidly became Australia's top electronics trade journal, *What's New in Electronics*.

We extend our condolences to his family and to Adrian Farrow and the gang at What's New.

Roger Harrison  
Editor, ETI

## How to succeed at overseas trade fairs

Many companies miss the perfect opportunity to market their new products and innovations overseas because they do not use trade fairs and specialised technology exhibitions to proper advantage, according to Thomas Wright, managing director of the product and technology transfer company, TechnoProduct.

"So many companies trying to break into the export market for the first time have little idea of what is involved in entering into a trade fair or other forms of overseas marketing," Mr Wright said. "Just establishing contacts in other countries is time consuming."

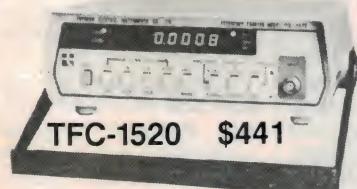
TPR specialises in representing Australian companies overseas and will also explore export markets for new products and innovations. The company has successfully placed many Australian innovations and products in export markets.

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1.65 kg

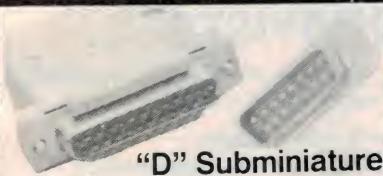


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(10Hz ~ 80MHz)  
50mVrms  
(80MHz ~ 520MHz)  
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Period 100ms ~ 1μS  
Input Impedance 1MΩ, 50Ω  
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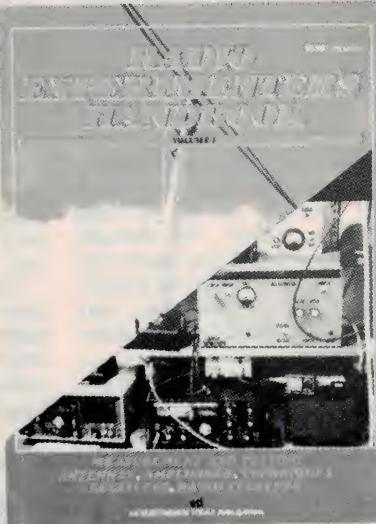
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Edited by Roger Harrison, VK2ZTB, this book carries a wealth of practical, down-to-earth information useful to anyone interested in the art and science of radio. \$7.95 from your newsagent or through selected electronics suppliers. It is also available mail order through ETI Book Sales, P.O. Box 227, Waterloo NSW 2017 (please add \$1.75 post and handling when ordering by mail).

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## Direct brain-computer hookup

Present methods of non-keyboard data entry, such as the use of mice or touch-screens, are soon going to lead to remarkable man-machine interface techniques, including direct brain-computer communications, according to a report from the US based market research and consulting firm, International Resource Development.

According to Laura Conroy of IRD, the early pc-brain interfaces will be based on inputs from electrodes placed in selected spots on the user's neck and temples, similar to those used in today's lie detector machines. But by the mid-1990s they will be replaced by human microchips, or 'biochips', that will enable direct brain-to-computer links.

Possibilities for improvements

in efficiency are endless; but so are the possibilities for abuse. For example, hooking up two computers to two brains could let one engage in theft of thoughts or such confidential material as military information or plans for inventions.

Although seemingly far-fetched, these schemes are derived directly from existing research that has produced many products of the future for use in military control systems. Laser-based sighting systems that utilise the centre of the pupil to direct the crosshairs over the target are already in use, for instance.

According to the IRD study several factors are creating a huge demand for less expensive, and more efficient operator-to-computer interfaces.

"An important goal," says IRD's Conroy, "is to reduce the cost of data entry by shifting the burden of the job to the hardware, and away from the operator." She adds, "The new technology allows companies to shift data entry facilities to sites where the data is collected, eliminating several steps in the collection and use of the data."

The report includes an in-depth description of the positioning going on for the coming battles over market share. Technological developments have placed many products in direct competition with each other. Movable mice, stationary mice, touch screens, light pens, touch pads, digitisers, joysticks and trackballs all have overlapping features. The major factor in consumer acceptance is whether or not efficiency is increased. Tests have shown that users are willing to learn to use new and more complicated methods of data entry if their efficiency or accuracy is increased.

## Kiwi review

The New Zealand National Electronics Development Association (NEDA) has just released its 1984 review.

The publication gives a broad overview of the electronics industry. Last financial year it grew at a rate faster than any other sector of the economy. Inspite of a generally dismal year for New Zealand economically, manufacturing of electronic products in the industrial professional sector increased by 15%, and in the communications field by 45%.

The report lists key organisations and people in various sectors. Research being done in universities and at government research bodies is listed, as is development work within some of the large companies and industry organisations like Tasman Forestry.

For a copy of the review contact NEDA at P.O. Box 9092, Wellington NZ (4) 84-5688.

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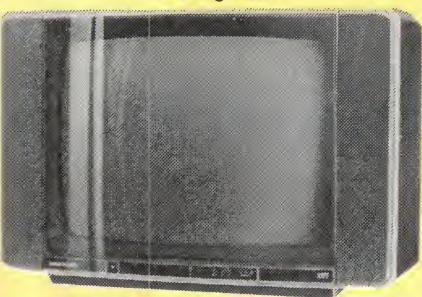


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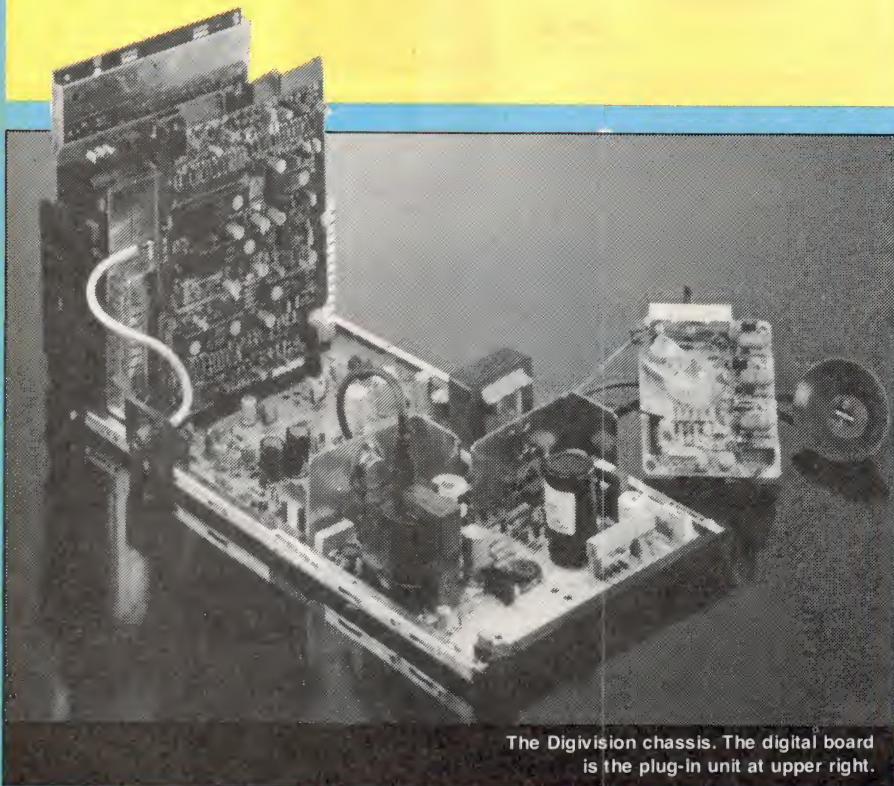


The TV set of the future will use digital techniques for most, if not all, of its functions. The process of converting to digital design is anything but easy and the process is likely to be long drawn out. It has already started, with some amazing new designs in workshops, but it's unlikely we will see true digital TV before the twenty-first century.

ITT's Digivision.



# THE TVSET GOES DIGITAL

**Jon Fairall**

The Digivision chassis. The digital board is the plug-in unit at upper right.

THE SMART MONEY is betting that by the early 1990s most of the TV sets sold around the world will have digital circuits. Everywhere engineers are racing to be the first to put out a completely digital design. And the electronics giants of Japan, Europe and the US are watching them carefully.

There have been some successes already. In Europe the ITT subsidiary Intermetall has produced a kit of five VLSI chips that digitise the vision path between the demodulator and the output amplifier. According to ITT, this represents the integration of almost 300 000 transistor functions. Motorola has a similar set of chips it calls the System 4 that mixes digital and analogue functions on the chips.

There has also been considerable progress towards a digital frame store (DFS). A DFS is a device that stores the whole picture (frame) as a series of digits in one set of memory. In Europe, Philips has unveiled the first primitive model and Sony in Japan seems to be heading down the same track.

TV designers have been quick to jump on these developments. Virtually all of them now have prototype sets up and running that use digital chip sets. Sony has already released one in Japan and plans to release it here within the next two years. National, likewise, has released its first digital TV in Japan, using the ITT chip set, but there are no plans yet to release it in this country. Hitachi also claims to be working on one, but according to its Melbourne office, the details are still "confidential". The primary US contender is the Zenith Corporation, which has a prototype up and running.

## Advantages

So, what's all the fuss about? Why digitise TV sets at all? Well, there are some fairly predictable answers: digital sets are claimed to offer greater immunity to noise and ghosting, better resolution, and ease of interfacing to other digital sources like personal computers and videotext systems. They also offer the designer the ability to do very sophisticated manipulations on the image data, manipulations that would be virtually impossible in a reasonably priced analogue set.

Looking down the track just a little way, say within the next ten years, designers are looking at sets with 1250 non-interlaced lines, and flicker-free pictures of unparalleled clarity. They would be hardware independent of the transmission format, requiring only reprogramming of their DFS to handle any of the standards now in use, (or any that might originate in the future).

Another facility that will be standard on most of these sets will be second source windows. These are small insets that can be made to show the output of a second source, like a VCR or video camera. The user will be able to select the size of the window and position it anywhere on the screen, as well as independently controlling brightness, colour etc, just as for the main screen.

## History

Digital techniques were introduced to TV sets in the early 1960s when remote control

equipment began to appear in top-of-the-line models. Microprocessor based systems followed quickly. Text information systems like Teletext and Viewdata began to appear in the mid to late 1970s. They all require some digital processing before being delivered to the analogue circuitry of the video amplifiers.

Until quite recently though, digital TV has taken a back seat in most research labs to high definition, wide bandwidth systems. The conventional wisdom has been that more gains could be made more quickly by developing analogue technology. Modern top-of-the-line analogue systems have superb definition. They can also be made very small. In November 1983 Philips unveiled a black and white set with all its essential functions on a single IC. Two chip colour sets have also been demonstrated.

But even as this trend towards large scale integration has been going on there has been a slow but steady increase in the amount of digital design being included in the average circuit. Clive Sinclair (the flamboyant British designer of the ZX80/81 and Spectrum computers) has shown a composite digital/analogue chip set intended for use with his up and coming flat screen TV. While most of the signal path is conventional the deflection circuits are all digital. Motorola has also gone a long way down this track with its System 4 design. It also uses a composite analogue-digital design.

At least part of the problem with developing digital designs has been that while digital processing is conceptually far easier than analogue, it takes a lot more components to do the same job. This in turn implies a far more complex circuit, with associated manufacturing and servicing expenses. The only way to keep cost down and quality up is with large scale integration. The problem is that the very large number of components that need to be integrated pushes the state of the art to the limit.

So there was a certain amount of surprise in the industry when, in 1982, Intermetal announced the creation of a completely digital video and audio section called, with alarming originality, the 'Digivision' chip set. It was a five chip set with three of them handling the video signal: a coder/decoder (codec), a processor and deflection processor. The audio was carried on the other two. In order to make the system run it also required a microprocessor, an EEPROM and a clock, giving an absolute minimum part count of eight ICs plus a few capacitors. The managing director of ITT Semiconductor, Lubo Micic, has been quoted as saying that this represents just the first step in an advance that will see the creation of an entirely digital design on a single chip.

### How it works

Given the fact that it works digitally, Digivision is a very conventional system. At block diagram level the circuit could be that of any of a hundred and one other analogue sets. The digital processing begins at the end of the IF chain after the AM RF signal has been detected, and the video and audio

### THE ITT "DIGIVISION"

The Digivision 3786 TV from ITT in Pforzheim, Germany, is touted as the ultimate in modern digital technology, with built-in videotext decoder and newly-developed three-way loudspeakers.

The novel feature of this TV is that the picture and sound signals received from the transmitter are processed digitally, and the electron beams which 'write' the image onto the screen are also digitally controlled. According to ITT's press release, international experts refer to this advance as the greatest technological leap since the change from black and white to colour television.

The analogues of the picture and sound signals are converted into digital form, then stored and processed by the TV's circuitry. This means that disturbances which often occur during the normal method of processing these oscillations become ineffective; as long as the signal remains 'perceptible' the TV can process and 'restore' the signal exactly without influence from external disturbances such as distortion and noise, ITT claim.

A further advantage of the digital system is that it can check and, if necessary, correct itself to a certain extent. The Digivision TV does this in the following way:

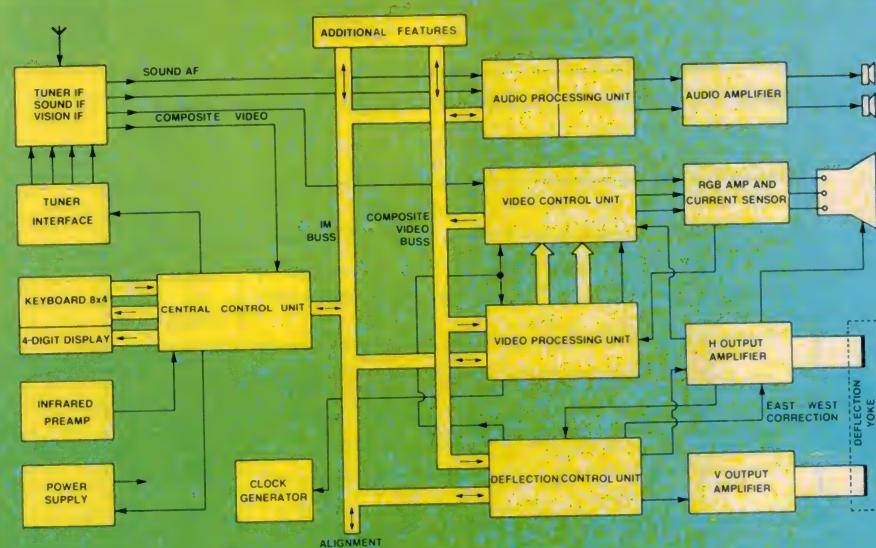
All data important for optimum picture reproduction are entered into an electronic memory at the production stage. Whenever the TV is switched on, it compares the data received with the data stored. If there are any deviations between the two, for example as a result of the natural ageing process of the picture tube or the beam deflection circuitry, they are automatically corrected. The result is that the colour picture quality should stay exactly the same as when the set was new, say ITT.

Since videotext employs digital technology, it is ideally combined with the new ITT TV set. This means the videotex decoder is not an expensive extra, as with other TV sets, but a standard component of the set. Increased reliability could also be regarded as a standard feature, since just seven computer chips have replaced around 300 conventional electronic components, with the obvious advantage that there are 300 less components to go wrong!

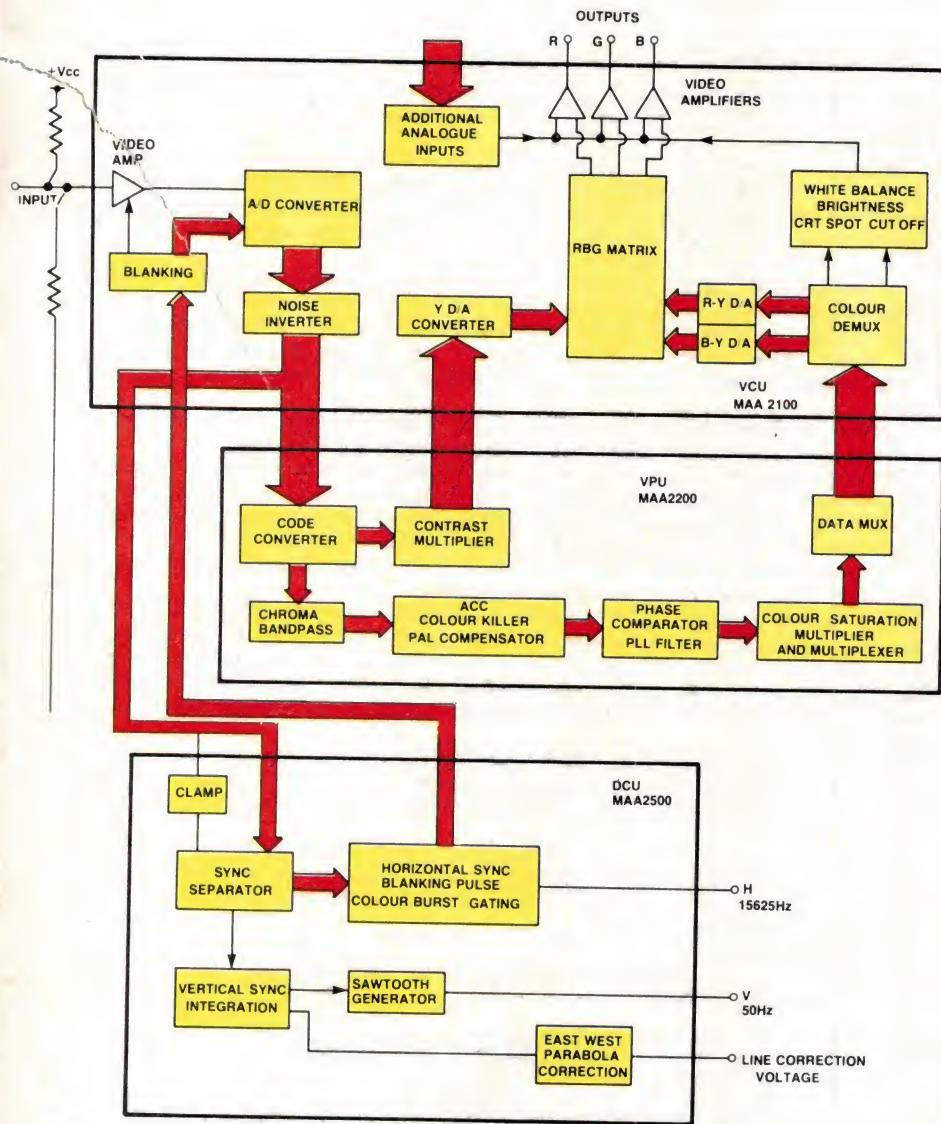
Owing to the inclusion of the ITT-developed 'OSCAR' tuner (Omni-System Cable and Antenna Receiver), the Digivision has a secure future when cable TV arrives. Altogether 99 channels can be received, 30 of which can be stored and selected using the remote control device.

Audio output is 2 x 20 watts (music power). Bass and treble reception can be varied by separate controls, and there are connections for headphones, external loudspeakers and a stereo system. Video recorders can be connected via the AV socket, and a PAL/Secam decoder can be fitted on request.

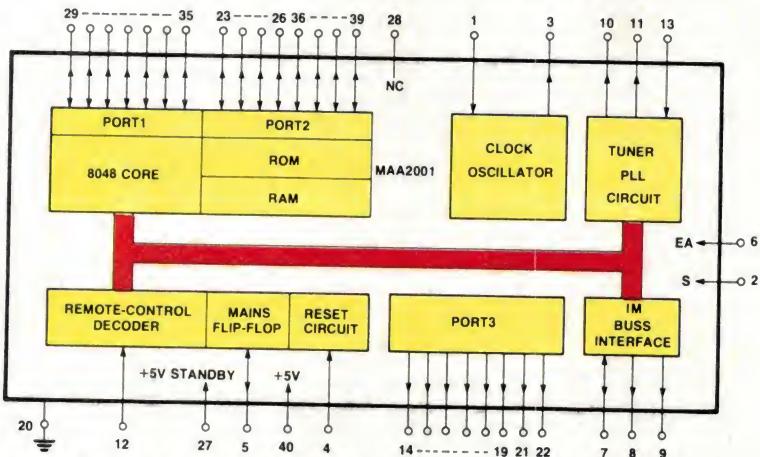
The dimensions of the Digivision TV are 80 x 55 x 49 cm, and its colour scheme is brown and silver. It is imported and distributed by Falk Electrosound, 28 King St, Rockdale, NSW 2216. (02)597-1111.



Digivision block diagram. Not all that different to modern TV sets, except that most functions are digitally processed.



Inside the blocks. Showing general arrangements of the VCU, VPU and DCU sections.



Inside the CCU. The 'smart heart' of the Digivision.

signals split up.

The video signal is passed to a network of three chips: the video codec unit (VCU), the video processor unit (VPU), and the deflection control unit (DCU). The analogue signal is fed initially to the VCU where it is converted to a 7-bit wide word via a pulse code modulation (PCM) process. The first stage of the operation is to chop the analogue signal in a process known as pulse amplitude modulation. This results in a series of bits with amplitude directly proportional to the amplitude of the analogue wave. The amplitude of each of these bits is then sampled by the pulse code modulator and turned into a binary number between 0 and 255.

This 7-bit word is then put out on to a bus that connects to the other two chips in the video processing section. The VPU takes the luminance and chrominance information, while the DCA takes the sync information. The chip set now performs a series of digital manipulations on the data directly analogous to the equivalent analogue process. The DCA contains a sync separator, where the horizontal information is separated from the vertical. The vertical 50 Hz information is put through a sawtooth generator to derive the control signal, and also through an east-west parabola to generate a correction signal for the tube.

The horizontal sync pulse, running at 15625 Hz, is used to generate the colour burst gating pulse and the various blanking signals. It is then fed out as a clean pulse from pin 31 of the DPU. This pulse can then be used to drive the output stages directly.

Meanwhile the VPU is processing all the colour information. A code converter on the input separates chroma and luminance information and performs all the usual manipulations on them. The luminance information is put through a contrast multiplier and limiter and then fed back to the VCU as an 8-bit parallel word.

The chroma information follows a slightly more complex path. After passing through the PAL compensator, colour killer decoder and phase comparator the two signals (R-Y and B-Y) are multiplexed together on a four line bus and passed back to the VCU.

In the VCU the luminance information is converted back into analogue form and applied to the RGB matrix. The chroma information must be demultiplexed into its component R-Y and B-Y signals before being converted into analogue signals and applied to the matrix. The demultiplexer also generates signals for white balance and CRT cut-off. The component R, G and B signals are amplified before leaving the chip and then passed to the video amplifiers for generation of CRT control signals.

In parallel with this video processing, the audio signal is also being processed. This is a two chip network with the analogue to digital conversion on one (MAA 2300) and the de-emphasis and audio processing on the other (MAA 2400). As well as the basic

A-D the 2300 also features auxiliary inputs and a sophisticated switching mechanism. The switching allows the user to select between the two sets of inputs, to invert the phase of either and to insert de-emphasis as required.

In addition to the five chips already described there are a further two required to make the system run. Predictably there is a clock to time the whole system. This is an MEA 2600 IC. It has two clock outputs to provide a non-overlapping two phase clock signal for the IC set. Its frequency is set at four times the sub-carrier frequency, which for PAL systems is 17.7 MHz. However, this needs to be set up by external components, so it is quite possible to change frequencies in sets designed for other standards, like SECAM and NTSC.

### The CCU

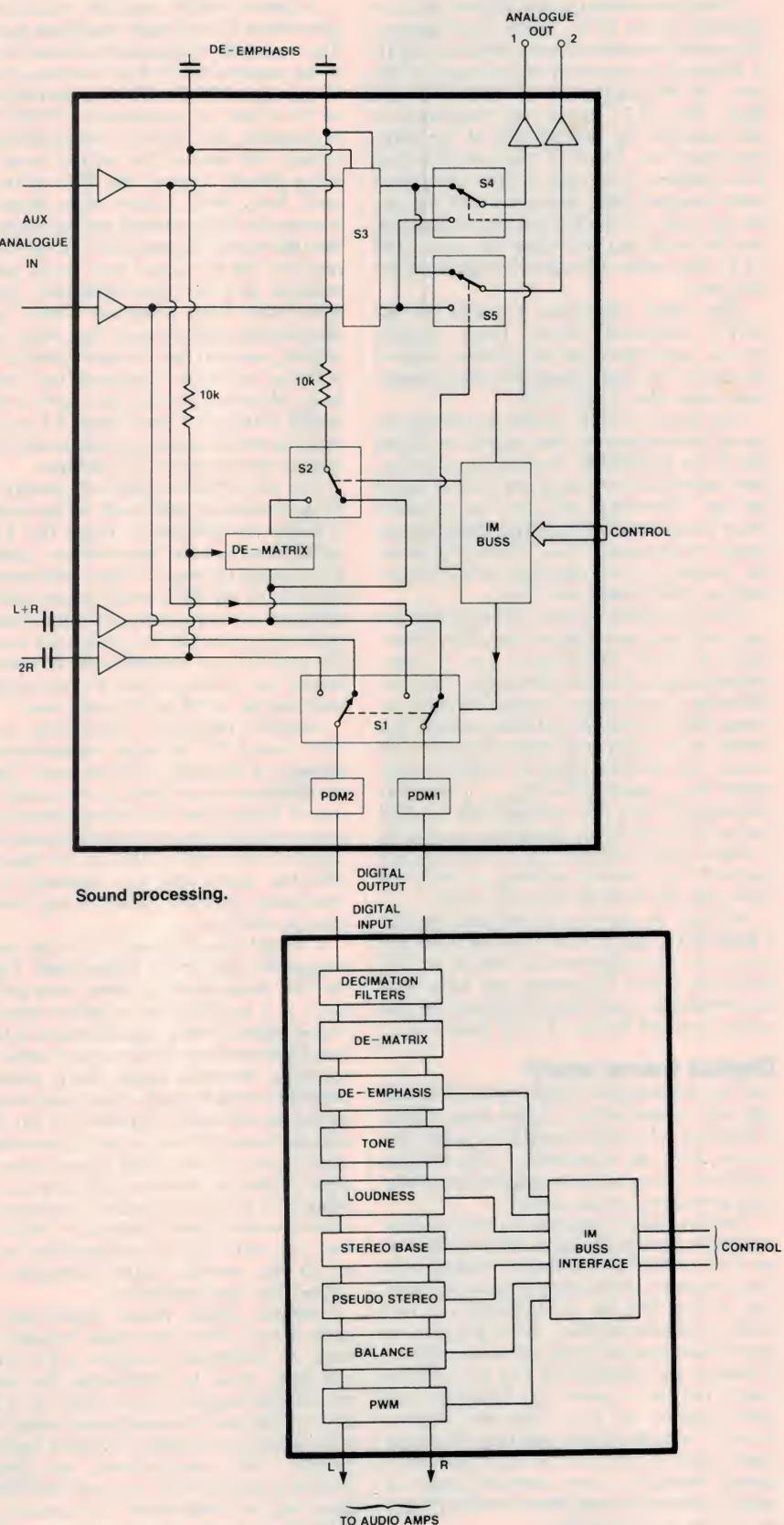
The final chip, and the one responsible for most of the practical advantages claimed for digital sets, is the central control unit. This consists of an 8048 core processor, three I/O ports, a clock and PLL circuit, some RAM and ROM and a few other bits and pieces.

The purpose of the CCU is to provide an interface to the infrared remote control, provide control of the tuner via the PLL, interface to the keyboard and the display, and last but not least, to directly control all the other chips in the set via the IM buss.

For the sake of clarity the IM buss has been left off the diagram. However, it connects to all the chips in the set. It also provides an interface to the outside world, most notably to an EEPROM which holds the tuning data for 29 channels and user controllable setting and alignment data. It also controls a videotext decoder.

The importance of the IM buss can best be illustrated by considering its operation during the life of the set. Before the set leaves the factory only two mechanical adjustments need to be made (to set up the horizontal output voltage and voltage on the picture tube). All the other adjustments are made with an 'electronic screwdriver'. It contains an 8039 processor that can interact directly with the set's 8049 via a plug on the IM buss. Control of the screwdriver is via a calculator style keypad.

Before alignment of the chassis can begin, the screwdriver must send out four 'transfer commands' which disable the supervisory functions of the processor and transfer control to the screwdriver. The technician now has direct access to host of familiar set-up parameters, like screen grid voltage, RGB cutoff, vertical and horizontal amplitude, position and linearity, plus all the usual raster geometry controls like picushion and trapezoidal adjustments. When alignment is finished the original four transfer commands are sent again. All the set-up information that has been transferred is now downloaded by the CCU into the EEPROM, where it will remain for the lifetime of the set, or until altered by further application of the screwdriver. ▶



Communications on the IM buss must be initiated by the CCU. There is no separate chip select or address buss, so the correct IC is accessed by means of the protocol on the buss. In the inactive state all the lines are high. The CCU signals the beginning of data transfer by driving two of the three buss lines low. The CCU then sends out an 8-bit address code and all the peripheral units compare their addresses with the one on the buss. Each chip has two addresses, one for read and the other for write. The CCU then sends or receives either 8- or 16-data bits.

The entire operation is timed by the CCU's on-board clock. Data transfer always takes place on the positive edge of the clock. The lines themselves only change state when the clock is low.

The beauty of this system is that all the set-up information is now stored as digital bits in the EEPROM. In theory at any rate, they should last uncorrupted for the life of the set. Resetting will only be required when components fail and the whole system needs realignment. This effectively solves the tendency in conventional sets for alignment to drift slowly over time.

From the point of view of the technician the electronic screwdriver has a few other, quite practical advantages. For a start, sticking fingers in close proximity to a few kilovolts is inherently a risky business, so being able to align the set from outside it is bound to be safer and more pleasant. (Of course this doesn't apply to technicians in which  $R_{finger}$  approaches  $R_{leather}$ .) Another advantage is that it is now possible to align the set from the front. You don't need to do it with a mirror or some other cumbersome method that involves looking at both the front and the back of the set at once.

As well as the set-up information the EEPROM is also used as a storage space for user controlled alignment information. The preferred values of volume and tone, picture brightness and channel frequencies can all be accessed by the CCU at power up.

## Digital frame store

The full advantages of digital processing can only be realised with a digital frame store. Effectively it becomes possible to isolate the screen from the transmitter, with all that implies in terms of the manipulation of the data appearing on the screen.

The way such a system would work is that a digitally processed signal, such as the output from a Digivision chip set, would be fed into a memory sufficiently large to accumulate all the data for a TV frame i.e.: two fields of interlaced lines. What happens to them is determined by the software in place. If desired the information can be read out again, just as it comes in. Pointless, but quite feasible. In fact, Sony has demonstrated a set which does just that. The analogue signal is put into an A-D converter, passed through a large memory array as digital information and then converted back into analogue information.

A more fruitful exercise would be the generation of real high resolution pictures. The standard transmission format in Australia consists of 625 lines interlaced with a frame rate of 25 Hz. This means that a field of 312.5 lines is transmitted at 50 Hz. Conventionally, two fields are assembled on the screen; the lines of the second 'even' field being placed between the lines of the first 'odd' field. With a frame store there is no reason why things should not be so arranged that the frame is painted on the screen at a rate of 100 Hz, each line being painted twice to give 1250 line definition. Systems have even been proposed where, rather than simply painting each line twice on the screen, a second line is constructed by interpolation of values between two existing lines. However it was done, such a system would eliminate flicker from TV sets forever, as well as make a considerable difference to the clarity of TV pictures.

The idea of decoupling the picture from the transmission path leads to the idea that it would be possible to make the TV set independent of the transmission standard. Presumably the way in which information is read out of the DFS would be controlled by software, so only minor changes would be necessary to handle the difference between 525 and 625 line transmission. Decoders to handle the various colour formats could be switched on or off at the same time.

Another important application of the DFS would be in noise suppression. A number of methods could be used. One of the most common is likely to be a cyclic process of integration and reintegration of the signal which leads to an improvement in the signal to noise ratio. This occurs since it is only the signal that gets summed in the integration process. Noise, being random, cancels itself out.

It would also be possible for the user to manipulate the screen image itself. One of the first suggestions to have been put forward is a proposal for a screen insert, in which output from a second source is monitored somewhere on the screen while still receiving the main image. So it would be possible to watch a video tape while keeping an eye on a broadcast channel, or any other source. National has in fact demonstrated such a store. It uses a 64K screen store with direct digital feed from an ITT chip set. The window is fed by an auxiliary analogue circuit with input from a camera or VCR. The user can control its size and position, as well as all the normal picture functions like colour, hue and brightness.

Practical digital frame stores are still quite a way down the track however. In order to completely describe a TV screen and have space to manipulate the screen information requires about 2 Mb. It is possible to implement quasi-frame stores with considerably less memory capacity than this though. One manufacturer has demonstrated a system that can only hold three lines and yet implements a non-interlaced 1250 line format on the screen. The

National set mentioned earlier creates an inset window with 64K. The noise reduction functions can be accomplished with less memory as well.

However, current thinking is that in order to implement all these functions at the same time, plus others that might come up, it is necessary to be able to manipulate the entire frame, and this requires considerably more memory than is practical given modern manufacturing and economic constraints. The problem is just one of size, cost and power. The biggest readily available memory chips on the market are 64K, so you need an awful lot of them to make up a DFS.

There are two schools of thought on future developments in this area. One holds that the future will belong to purpose built chips. Philips belongs to this camp, and has recently unveiled its first approximation to reality — a 308K charge couple device. These will go into production in 1985 and will cost about US\$23. So to implement a real DFS would cost the manufacturer about \$150. It's anyone's guess what it will cost the customer! Of course manufacturers can implement frame stores with much less memory as National has done.

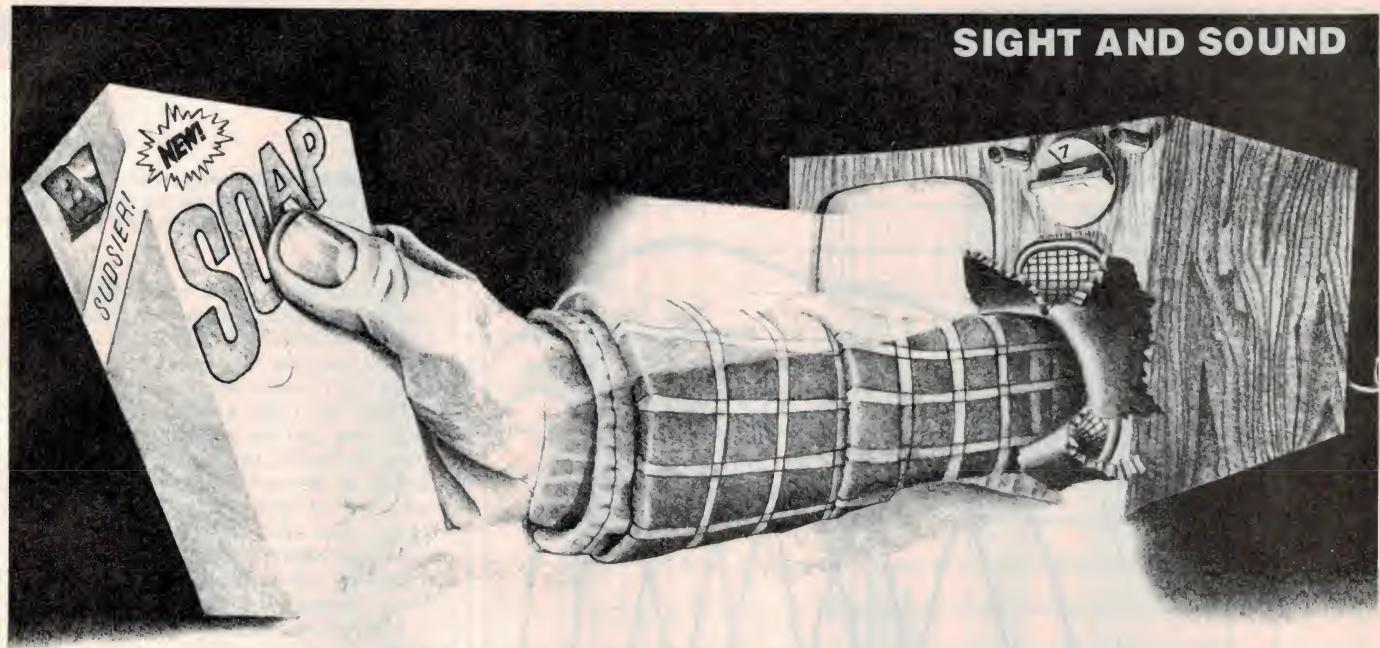
Most people in the industry believe Philips is barking up the wrong tree. The argument runs that future DFS will be composed of ordinary memory devices that will be available on the shelf at a reasonable price. Majority opinion has it that realistic devices will be available by about 1990. But plenty of pundits are advising against any collective holding of breath by TV designers. Developing a commercial 256K chip is proving a real problem so 1M is probably a way down the track, optimistic announcements from IBM notwithstanding.

## Problems

So, what are the prospects for digital TV? There are Jeremiahs in every industry, and most of those in electronics are saying that digital TV is an idea way before its time. The argument runs that digital TV will not be viable from the point of view of the consumer until the introduction of a realistic DFS. Some gains are to be made in the areas of definition and resolution, but they are marginal, especially when compared to a top-of-the-line analogue set properly set up and viewed under optimum conditions.

At this point in time digitising offers no cost benefit to either manufacturer or consumer. In fact the converse is true. Digital sets are just about as expensive as they come, and with good reason too. The current generation of digital TV has been built only after considerable design effort and that does not come cheap. According to Motorola vice president, Arturo Kruger, digital TV represents nothing except "lower performance at much higher cost".

But this is not to say that digital TV is not the way of the future. When frame stores become available the consumer will certainly notice major improvements in clarity and in the way the set can be interfaced and manipulated. There will also be major reductions in price as economies of scale begin to take effect. In the long run VLSI will make itself felt, with attendant savings in manufacturing and servicing costs.



## The end of the SCREAMING ADVERTS

Raucous advertisements on radio and TV have proven extremely difficult to control, and some overseas agencies have given up the effort. Things are looking brighter in Australia with the introduction of new equipment.

**Jon Fairall**

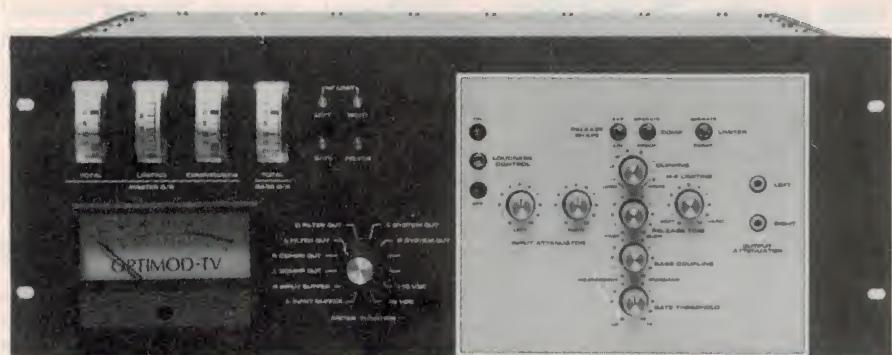
THE US FEDERAL Communications Commission (FCC) recently decided to abandon its enquiry into loud commercials. According to statements from the Commission, its standing committee into commercial loudness had decided that the problems of loudness were so difficult to come to grips with that no legislative action was likely with existing technologies.

In Australia, the Federation of Commercial Television Stations (FACTS) has a working party that has been monitoring developments in measuring techniques. At present they are studying the implications of the US decision.

### Difficulties

On the face of it, this seems a little queer, does it not? It can't be too difficult to tell how loud something is. As it turns out, it is extremely difficult to tell how loud something seems.

The first thing to understand is that there



**Optimod TV:** A TV audio processor now in common use in Australian TV stations. It has input conditioning filters, compressors, pre-emphasis and high frequency limiters, noise reduction and de-emphasis circuitry as well as loudness control functions.

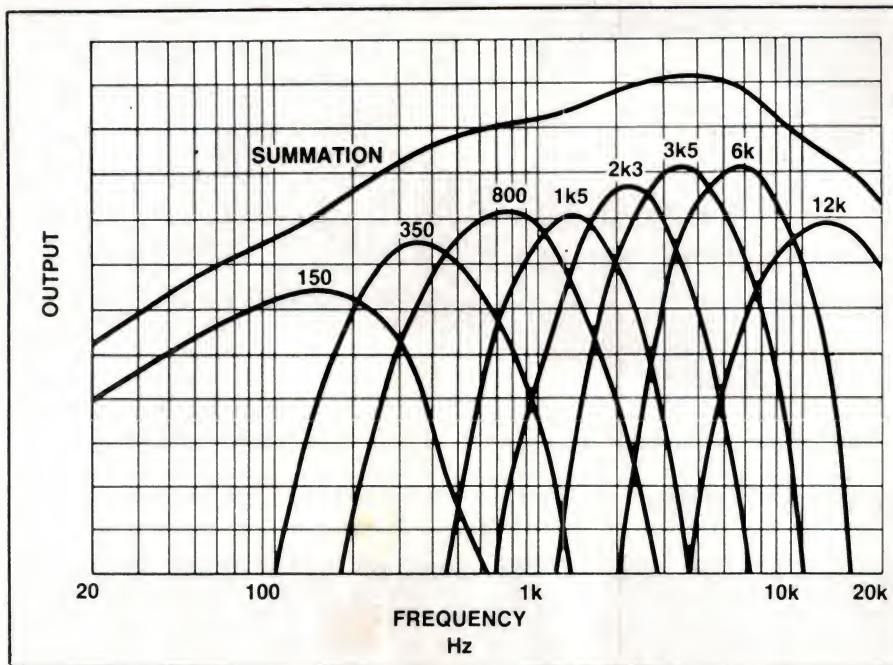
is a distinction to be made between loudness and volume. Volume is an objective phenomenon, readily measurable, that relates to the voltage excursions in the transmitter and the amplifier, the movement of the speaker and even the movement of air molecules between your ears and the speakers.

The question of how loud a particular bit of programme seems to the viewer is much more complex. To be sure it depends on volume as described above. But it depends on a whole host of subjective factors as well. The presence and level of other noise in the room, the contrast between a particular bit of programme and the bits that surround it and the actual content of the material all affect the way it seems to sound.

The human ear also has a non-linear response to frequency, so that some frequencies sound louder than others. Peak response is somewhere in the range 2-8 kHz and trails off to somewhere between 15 and 20 kHz. The exact figures vary from individual to individual, and for any individual they also vary over time. A typical healthy twelve-year-old can hear close to 20 kHz on average. By the time that same person has reached fifty, frequencies beyond 12 kHz will probably be beyond reach.

### LLMs

All these factors taken together make it very difficult to put figures on 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' sound levels. The FCC decision was the culmination of over a



decade's frustrating work trying to build a machine that would accurately model human perceptions. The ideal would be a loudness level monitor (LLM) that could set levels as they were broadcast, and in so doing keep all programme material at the same perceived level. It would also prevent sudden changes in programme level.

In fact, the end result of US research was a machine that approximated this goal quite well. Not well enough for a litigious country like the US, where the goal was objective criteria that could be applied in a court of law, but certainly good enough for a country like Australia, where the goal has been to achieve self-regulation of the industry rather than outside control.

These LLMs are produced under licence to CBS by Orban in the US. The latest models divide the audio spectrum into eight bands, and then add the output of each band according to an algorithm that closely models the human perception of sound.

There is also provision to account for the response times of the hearing mechanism. CBS research showed that the ear acted rather like a filter with time constants of 20 ms for attack and 200 ms for decay. This is accurately reproduced in the instrument together with a summing function that has somewhat longer attack and decay times.

CBS ran a series of tests in 1982 with members of the public to see how well their perception of whether a commercial was louder than normal agreed with the LLM. Testing programmes were developed in which the subjects had to watch a twenty minute show consisting of fifteen commercials intermixed with news programmes. Subjects operated a volume control in an attempt to keep all programmes at the same

level.

The controller left 60% of commercials unchanged, decreased 27% and increased 13%. The subjects left 50% unchanged, decreased 35% and increased 15%. The difference between 50% and 60% is probably the result of imperfections in the equipment, and subjective factors that affect perception but not the equipment.

The results of the use of loudness controllers was impressive enough for a number of Australian TV stations to start using them. As a result, it is now quite common to find that the audio level of material being broadcast is set quite automatically as it goes to air. According to the Senior Audio Director of TCN 9, Ray Derreck, this results in far more even audio performance, not only because the machine is better at discerning levels than an operator but because human operators find the exercise of setting levels all day so boring they are inclined to get a bit sloppy towards the end of a shift.

New-generation controllers have the ability to change the level of the incoming signal so that all programme material is at the same level while at the same time holding the output level below a preset level so as to prevent overmodulation of the signal. It is also possible to tie them into the programming computers that control the station output such that they are defeated during entertainment programmes. This prevents the controller destroying special audio effects that may be used for dramatic impact during a film.

### The tricks

However, anyone who listens to the commercial channels will realise the FCC does have a point in suggesting the exercise is not

**CBS's best fit:** The frequency response of the CBS loudness indicator. Experience has shown that this response closely models the behaviour of the average human ear.

► 100% reliable. It is one of the facts of life that makers of commercials want their commercial advertisements to stand out from the rest, and one time-honoured method of doing it is to make them louder.

There are quite a number of technical tricks they can use to do this, quite apart from the subtle (or unsubtle) production devices in the way the commercial is scripted. One of these is to introduce a frequency bias into the audio towards the mid-range where hearing is best. Loudness controllers will compensate a lot for this effect, although it is still helped if there are no high or low frequency distractions to get in the way of the message.

Another one is to compress the audio in the final mix of the commercial. Compression is a technique by which the dynamic range of the programme is reduced, that is, the loudest sounds are reduced in level and the softest are increased. Since TV audio has a limited dynamic range when compared to other audio systems it is a common practice when mixing audio signals for TV. Commercial makers though, tend to compress the signals more than necessary.

The trick is that the broadcaster sets up the signal with respect to the maximum peaks in the programme material. The object of the exercise, after all, is to generate the most powerful signals possible consistent with the modulation level permitted by legislation and the equipment. Overmodulation, of course, distorts the signal, and is something that a broadcaster avoids at all costs.

If an overcompressed signal is broadcast, its maximum excursions will be at the same level as the rest of the material, but the minima will be at a greater level, as indeed, will the average level of the signal.

A number of factors prevent the overuse of this technique. The most powerful is that compression introduces a distortion into the system, and this sets a limit on how much it can be used. It also means it's more useful for speech than music where the requirements of linear response are much greater.

The other even more pragmatic reason is that broadcasters don't like it because it turns viewers off. Both FACTS and the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal report that the number of complaints from the public have started to decline in the face of the new engineering practices. FACTS itself takes quite a strong line on loudness, and in the past has returned a number of commercials to their makers for remixing.

The situation is quite different in the US, where the FCC is still receiving many thousands of complaints a year about noisy commercials. It seems little is to be done in the near future, in the US at least. Maybe the final answer for 'screamers' is a remote control to turn the audio down, or off. ●

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MN3001	15.00	13.00	11.00	8085	5.50	5.00	4.90	HJ15004	4.50	4.30	3.90	7430	.40	.35	.33	IN5406	.20	.18	.12	.11	74L509	.40	.35	.33	74L510	.40	.35	.33	
LN394CH	4.00	3.90	3.75	8012	2.50	2.20	2.00	2N2771	4.50	4.30	3.90	7445	.70	.65	.60	74148	.03	.02	1.7*	1.6*	74L527	.40	.35	.33	74L528	.40	.35	.33	
UH319L	1.00	1.00	1.00	8249	3.00	2.70	2.50	2N2773	4.50	4.30	3.90	7446	.70	.65	.60	74148	.03	.02	1.7*	1.6*	74L528	.40	.35	.33	74L529	.40	.35	.33	
WHD3020	1.90	1.75	1.70	B239	4.50	4.25	4.00	2N3055	.80	.75	.70	7447	1.00	.90	.85	2102	1.9*	1.7*	1.50	1.50	74L530	.40	.35	.33	74L531	.40	.35	.33	
HDC3021	1.95	1.85	1.75	B259	5.00	4.50	4.25	HJ180	3.50	3.10	2.75	7473	.45	.40	.39	4114	4.5*	4.3*	3.50	3.50	74L531	.40	.35	.33	74L532	.40	.35	.33	
UDC314PIN	1.70	1.60	1.50	B279	4.50	4.25	4.00	80139	4.00	3.50	3.20	7474	.40	.38	.34	2532	8.5*	8.0*	7.80	7.80	74L532	.40	.35	.33	74L533	.40	.35	.33	
5524R	1.80	1.70	1.50	WQ1771	13.00	14.00	13.00	BO140	.40	.35	.30	74123	.50	.45	.40	4144	7.0*	6.5*	6.00	6.00	74L533	.40	.35	.33	74L534	.40	.35	.33	
5536W	1.95	1.85	1.75	WQ1791	20.00	18.00	16.00	AY-3-1015	2.00	1.90	1.80	74150	1.40	1.30	1.20	5020	5.5*	5.0*	5.00	5.00	74L534	.40	.35	.33	74L535	.40	.35	.33	
435	1.20	1.00	.80	WQ1793	8877	20.00	18.00	16.00	AY-3-1015	7.50	6.00	5.50	74154	1.50	1.40	1.30	4144P3	6.20	5.20	5.20	5.20	74L535	.40	.35	.33	74L536	.40	.35	.33

For wholesale prices, please phone (03) 489 7099

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74S226	7.90	74C10	0.80	74LS22	90	74LS249	1.60	6503	13.00	LM317T	2.50	LM2917 8PIN	BC 558	20	MJE521	2.50	
74S240	6.90	74C14	1.40	74LS24	90	74LS251	1.50	6504	13.00	LM317K	4.50	4.90	BC 559	20	MJE700	3.50	
74S241	6.90	74C20	0.80	74LS26	90	74LS253	1.20	6505	13.00	LM318	4.90	LM2917 14PIN	BC 639	50	MJE800	2.90	
74S244	9.90	74C30	80	74LS27	90	74LS257	70	6507	13.00	LM319	4.90	4.90	BC 640	50	MJE2801	3.95	
ICL7106	19.50	74S251	3.90	74C32	80	74LS28	90	74LS258	1.20	6520	5.50	LM324	1.00	MN3001	17.50	BC Y70	1.90
ICL7116	19.50	74S253	4.90	74C42	1.90	74LS30	40	74LS259	1.50	6521	5.90	LM325	4.50	CA3028	2.00	BC Y71	1.90
ICL7117	21.50	74S257	3.30	74C48	2.50	74LS32	40	74LS261	2.50	6522	13.00	LM326	4.50	CA3046	1.90	BD135	1.00
ICL7611	6.95	74S258	3.30	74C73	1.40	74LS33	70	74LS266	1.20	6522A	13.00	LM329DZ	.90	CA3056	6.50	BD136	.90
ICL7612	6.95	74S260	2.90	74C74	1.70	74LS37	70	74LS273	1.95	6532	14.00	LM344Z	1.90	CA3059	5.95	BD137	.90
ICL7660	5.90	74S274	P 0A	74C76	1.90	74LS38	80	74LS275	6.80	6545	19.50	LM335Z	2.20	CA3080	1.90	BD138	.90
ICL7663	4.90	74S275	P 0A	74C83	2.30	74LS40	80	74LS279	60	6551	12.90	LM336 2V 2.95	CA3086	1.90	BD139	.60	
ICL7664	4.90	74S280	5.90	74C85	2.30	74LS42	60	74LS280	2.60	6260	21.00	LM338	12.50	CA3089	3.90	BD140	.60
ICM7211	12.50	74S281	P 0A	74C86	1.50	74LS47	100	74LS283	1.50	6261	23.00	LM339	1.20	CA3100E	7.95	BD201	.90
ICM7216A	48.50	74S283	7.90	74C89	8.90	74LS48	100	74LS290	1.50	6800	6.00	LM348	1.80	CA3130E	2.20	BD202	.90
ICM7216B	44.50	74S287	4.90	74C90	1.90	74LS49	1.80	74LS293	1.30	6802	7.00	LM349	1.60	CA3130T	2.95	BD232	.90
ICM7217A	18.50	74S288	4.90	74C93	1.90	74LS51	70	74LS295	1.75	6808	12.50	LM350K	8.50	CA3140E	2.20	BD233	.90
ICM7218A	18.50	74S299	13.90	74C95	2.00	74LS54	80	74LS297	6.50	6809	10.00	LM351N	1.00	CA3140T	2.95	BS235	.90
ICM7224A	21.50	74S301	13.90	74C107	1.20	74LS55	80	74LS298	1.20	6810	3.50	LM353	2.50	CA3240E	11.95	BD236	.90
ICM7226A	48.50	74S314	P 0A	74C150	6.50	74LS56	2.80	74LS299	3.90	6810	7.50	LM356	2.40	CA3401	1.00	BD237	.90
ICM7227A	19.95	74S330	P 0A	74C151	4.20	74LS73	60	74LS320	3.95	6820	5.50	LM357	2.40	CA3500E	7.95	BD238	.90
ICM7213A	15.50	74S331	P 0A	74C154	6.00	74LS74	60	74LS321	3.95	6821	5.50	LM358	1.40	CA3905	1.75	BD262	.120
ICM7240	7.50	74S373	9.90	74C157	3.75	74LS75	100	74LS323	6.50	6840	6.50	LM377	4.90	CA3911	2.95	BD437	1.50
ICM7242	3.90	74S374	9.90	74C160	1.90	74LS77	100	74LS324	2.20	6844	12.80	LM378	3.95	LM3914	5.90	BD488	1.50
ICM7250	7.90	74S381	9.90	74C161	1.90	74LS78	110	74LS326	2.20	6845	12.50	LM380 8PIN	1.80	LM3915	5.90	BD647	1.80
ICM7260	7.90	74S387	3.30	74C162	2.00	74LS82	70	74LS327	2.20	6847	3.50	LM380 14PIN	1.80	LM3916	5.90	BD677	1.80
ICM7555	2.75	74S412	8212	74C163	2.00	74LS85	60	74LS352	2.20	6850	7.90	LM380CPU	5.00	MM3369	4.95	BDX63	6.50
ICM7556	2.95	74S418	5.90	74C164	2.50	74LS86	80	74LS353	2.20	6880	10.00	LM381	3.50	RL4136	1.95	Y96 (BUX 80)	1.50
<b>74 S</b>		74S428	8228	74C165	2.50	74LS86	80	74LS354	3.95	6860	19.50	LM382	3.50	RC4145	20.90	BD682	2.00
74S00	60	74S470	9.90	74C174	1.90	74LS91	60	74LS366	1.00	7480CPU	6.00	LM386	1.95	MM3369	4.95	BDX63	6.50
74S02	1.00	74S471	9.90	74C175	1.90	74LS92	60	74LS367	60	7480CPU	6.00	LM387A	3.95	SC1410	1.90	Y96 (BUX 80)	1.50
74S03	1.00	74S472	9.90	74C192	2.00	74LS93	70	74LS367	60	7480CPU	12.00	LM387A	3.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90	MPSU02	1.75
74S04	1.00	74S473	9.90	74C193	2.00	74LS95	120	74LS368	1.00	7480CPU	12.00	LM387A	3.95	SC1410	1.90	MPSU02	1.75
74S05	1.50	74S474	9.90	74C195	2.00	74LS96	120	74LS373	1.90	7480CPU	10.00	LM387A	3.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90	MPSU02	1.75
74S08	1.00	74S475	9.90	74C200	14.00	74LS107	90	74LS374	1.90	7480AP10	6.50	LM390	2.95	SC1410	1.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S09	1.50	74S476	11.90	74C221	2.75	74LS109	90	74LS375	1.00	7480CTC	5.50	LM391	2.90	SC1410	1.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S10	1.00	74S484	7.90	74C240	3.75	74LS112	70	74LS377	2.15	7480ACTC	6.50	LM393	1.00	SC142E	2.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S11	1.00	74H04	8.90	74C905	15.00	74LS136	150	74LS399	3.00	AY 3-2513	14.50	NE556	4.60	SC142E	2.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S12	1.30	74H21	90	74C916	4.00	74LS152	195	74LS446	5.50	7480AS10	15.00	NE561	4.60	SC142E	2.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S13	1.30	74H22	80	74C917	2.90	74LS158	80	74LS447	5.50	7480AS10	15.00	NE561	4.60	SC142E	2.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S14	2.50	74H30	90	74C918	2.90	74LS159	80	74LS448	5.50	7480AS17	19.50	NE565	1.60	SC150D	4.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S15	1.20	74H41	80	74C919	14.00	74LS145	210	74LS449	5.50	7480AS30	7.50	NE566	1.60	SC150D	4.95	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
74S17	1.30	74H42	80	74C919	12.50	74LS155	150	74LS450	3.20	7480AS30	7.50	NE566	1.60	SC260D	8.50	BDY97 (BUX 80)	4.90
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## SMOKE DETECTORS

The consumer flop that should never have flopped!

One of the greatest consumer flops of the last decade was the ionization-type smoke detector.

Even though it was a brilliant product is reliable, compact, easy installation, fail safe etc., it just did not sell. Apparently human nature being what it is finds safety-oriented products just not worth the investment however modest. We all know, for example, that accidents and fires never happen to US!!

We all know also, that smoke is the greatest killer in a fire. Many fires smoulder for hours before catching alight and causing physical damage. The US market research gurus thought that a cheap, compact smoke detector would be a mass consumer item. But boy, were they wrong! When they sold for \$49.50 no one wanted them. The price fell to a very reasonable \$29.99 and still they stayed on the supplier's shelves. Jaycar was called in. We have now been instructed to sell them for less than 1/2 this amount!! Now no-one, no-one has an excuse. You owe it to yourself, your children and family to afford them this simple, reliable and low cost protection. If you are a

Hotel, Motel or Lodge operator don't miss this wonderful opportunity to install smoke detectors at a never-to-be-repeated price.

Cat LA-5090

**ONLY  
\$14.98**



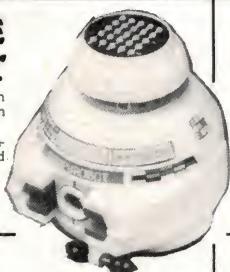
## NEW - PROGRAMMABLE MOBILE ROBOT

Low-cost fun learning with this sophisticated robot! Have hours of educational fun programming this fun device to do what you command through the 25-key keyboard on its head!!

**FEATURES:** ★ 4 bit microprocessor controlled ★ 3 speed gears selected by programming thru' micro ★ Can travel in 4 directions plus angles and curves ★ Has lights and audio ★ Complex routines can be easily programmed (up to 48 commands long).

Cat. XR-1024

**SAVE WITH JAYCAR - ONLY \$49.95**



## ELECTRONIC BELT DRIVE TURNTABLE - BSR QUALITY

Jaycar has made a sensational SCOOP PURCHASE of B.S.R. belt drive turntables from England at below manufacturers cost!

Two models available AA-0290 works from 9-12V DC and the AA-0292 from 240V AC (includes 12V 400mA adaptor). The DC motor drive is electronically controlled.

**SPECIFICATIONS:** ★ Dimensions 330(W) x 285(D) x 60(H)mm overall ★ Platter diameter 280mm ★ 2 speed - 33 & 45 rpm (internally adjustable) ★ Pick-up arm counterbalanced type with cueing facility ★ Pick-up ceramic (stereo) with diamond stylus ★ Turntable operation - auto stop, will return to rest automatically, turntable chassis is sprung on all corners with transit screws and clips. ★ Weight 1.5kg ★ Output stereo RCA sockets underneath unit.

(Post and Packing this item \$5 not \$4.50)



**CHECK THE PRICE!** Cat. AA-0290  
(requires 9-12V DC @ 400mA)

**\$24.95 \$29.95**

**240V VERSION** Cat. AA-0292  
(includes 12V 400mA adaptor)

**SAVE  
\$5.00  
PER UNIT**

**\$39.95  
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## JAYCAR VIDEO ENHANCER

A service to the Professional

Designed by a staff member of a well known Australian University and made in Australia. It is the only 625 line 50 frame PAL-D Australian designed and made unit that we know of. The unit features enhance, core/gamma control and by-pass switch. It will drive up to 3 VCR's at once with no degradation and works well as a video distribution amp as well. This is NOT A KIT and is guaranteed for 3 months.

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**SAVE \$10**

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- ★ Dries out wet ignitions
- ★ Protects all metals against rust or corrosion
- ★ Quickly penetrates and frees rusted parts
- ★ Lubricates close fitting parts
- ★ Stops battery corrosion and much more.

Cat. NA-1020

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ONLY  
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# "A GREAT XMAS GIFT FOR VIC-20 OR TI-99 COMPUTER USERS"

## BRILLIANT! BOOK/SOFTWARE COMBINATIONS!

Just in hot off the press from the U.S. Publisher! This is the latest way to buy packaged software. You basically get a vinyl case (similar to the case you get when you rent a video tape), a book and a software cassette. The book describes the program and also gives the program listing. The cassette has all of the programs in the book recorded on both sides. On one side of the cassette is a listing of the programs as they appear in the book. Many of the programs COULD contain additional entries to improve operation and provide additional features. If your interest is in programming use this side of the tape. You can then make your own changes and additions to the basic program so that you can see just what happens when the changes are made. Side 2 is an "enhanced" version of the programs. This version contains additions to the basic programs to provide more error checking and easier operation for those users whose primary interest is not in programming. The Book/Software combinations represent incredible value-for-money compared to ordinary cassettes! See the specific info on the current titles.

### TI-99/4A COMPUTER

#### "51 FUN & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS"

As the title suggests, 51 good examples of TI BASIC in action. They are programs that have practical and useful applications. Programs can be changed to suit specific needs.

The book (94 pages 135(w) x 215(h) x 8(d)) contains 4 sections as follows: Learning computing by working with numbers and characters - 18 program examples; "Having Fun with Graphics & Sounds" - 10 program examples; "Having Fun with Puzzles & Games" - 11 program examples; "Using Educational Programs for Easier Learning" - 12 program examples.

The cassette has all programs on each side one in standard form the other "enhanced". Both book and cassette come in colourful vinyl case measuring 165(w) x 230(h) x 30(d)mm.

Cat. BS-0750 \$17.95

### TI-99/4A: 24 BASIC PROGRAMS

24 programs all in TI BASIC. This book/software product runs from child/adult entertainment games to highly applicable household utility and service programs. 6 chapters in all (plus appendix) with many program examples under every chapter heading. Book dimensions 135(w) x 215(h) x 13(d). 220 plus pages. The cassette supplied has enhanced and standard listings of each program as well. Overall dimensions 165(w) x 230(h) x 30(d)

Cat. BS-0754 \$19.95

### TI-99/4A COMPUTER

#### "Entertainment Games in TI BASIC & Extended BASIC"

This book enables the TI computer user to get and play arcade-type games at a very cheap price. With the addition of joysticks and the TI Extended BASIC module you can use this product to its full extent.

Twenty programs in all are included in 21 chapters (one for each program plus a chapter on programming notes). Program titles include: "S.A.M.", "Arrow Zap", "Cosmic Guns", "Typing Skill", "Address Inventory", "Skeel Shoot", "Space Battle", "Killer Crabs Attack", "Dungeon", "Black Tunnel" & "Meteor Rescue". The book measures 135(w) x 215(h) x 10(d) and has over 170 pages. The accompanying cassette has standard and "enhanced" versions of each program to make loading easy. The entire package is once again enclosed in a colourful vinyl case measuring 165(w) x 230(h) x 30(d)mm.

Cat. BS-0752 \$19.95

### VIC-20

#### "VIC-20: Games, Graphics & Applications"

The Commodore VIC-20 has many special features including: ★ User definable character sets ★ Four musical voices ★ A real time clock ★ Colour ★ Graphics.

The book teaches you how to use all of the above features through 20 programs designed for use on the 5K and expanded VIC-20. Whilst the book is great for new VIC-20 users, advanced VIC programmers will find it stimulating as well! Apart from this the book contains joystick games and programs for home applications. Twenty chapters include: "Computer ESP", "Mind Reading", "Album Timer", "Stock Market", "Floor Planner", "Motor Race", "VIC Organ", "Auto Writer" & "Urban Renewer". Over 130 pages in this 135(w) x 215(h) x 8(d)mm book. Once again the cassette provides standard and "enhanced" versions of each program. Packaged in a colourful 165x230x30 vinyl case.

Cat. BS-0762 \$19.95

### VIC-20 COMPUTER

#### "VIC-20: 50 Easy-to-Run Computer Games"

The 135(w) x 215(h) x 8(d) 122 page plus book describes each of the 50 programs and provides program listing as well. Whilst most of the programs are fairly simple, (no program is over 30 lines) the games cover a wide range of skill and ability levels. This product is ideal for the novice programmer who also likes to play games on his VIC-20.

The cassette supplied has the programs as per the book listing and an "enhanced" version of each program on the other side. Once again the product is packaged in an attractive vinyl case the same size as the other products mentioned here.

Cat. BS-0760 \$18.95

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This brand-new design gives you better speed regulation over previous drill controller designs. It's also easier to make as all parts are mounted on the PCB. All parts supplied including special high voltage MR754 diode.

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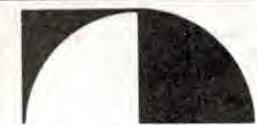
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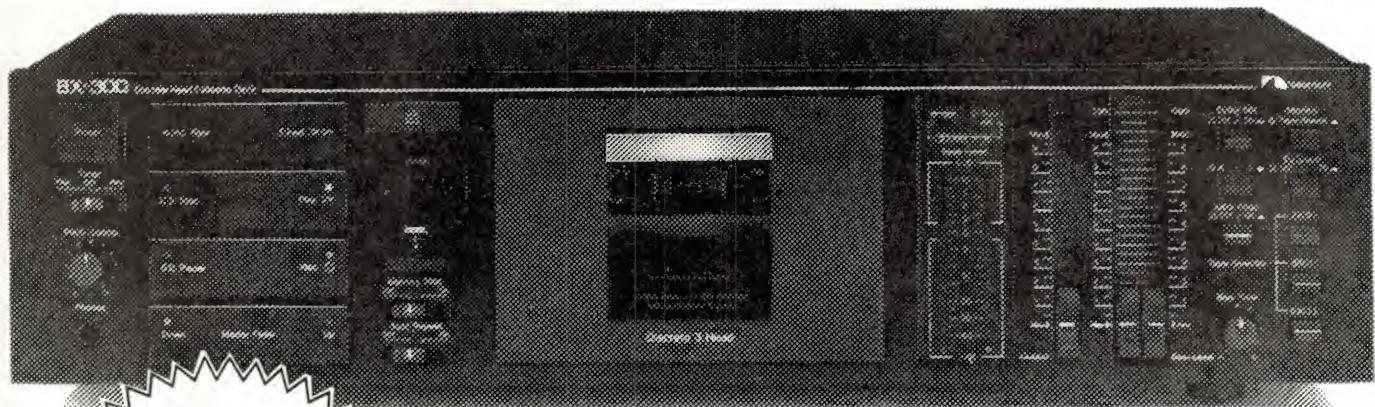
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## Motor sound doubles up

**A**M Stereo is expected to revolutionize both listening habits and the demand for audio equipment over the next year or two.

Australia's car radio suppliers have been quick to jump on the bandwagon. Pioneer Electronics introduced their latest product, the KE-A433AM, as the Minister for Communications, Mr Michael Duffy announced that radio stations will shortly be permitted to broadcast stereo signals on the AM band utilizing Motorola C-Quam.

Motorists stand to benefit most from AM Stereo as the stations can be received over a far greater range than the very limited reach of FM signals. This is an obvious plus for country driving and improved listening. Motorists, however, don't face any real increase in the cost of receivers. Expected to retail under \$350, the Pioneer KE-A433AM is an in-dash combination cassette/radio unit which receives both AM and FM stereo and AM mono signals via a Quartz-PLL Supertuner III.

The tuner section features feather-touch presets for 12 FM and 6 AM stations, auto up/down seek and local seek. Built-in PNS, an FM Auto/Mono switch, black on green liquid

crystal frequency display and preset station indicators. Auto replay, locking fast-forward and rewind, tape guard and a metal/chrome tape play button are features of the cassette section.

Meanwhile, Pioneer will also release its new "Centrate" component car audio product range soon. Centrate is an innovative top-end system which will demonstrate Pioneer's technical and development capabilities in car audio systems.

The centre-piece of Centrate is Pioneer's FEX-90 pre-amp tuner deck combination. It's DIN-sized with European smooth face design. The FEX-90's focal point is its pictographic function/display door which conceals the cassette entry.

Like the tape insert and eject operations, cassette loading is controlled by a full IC Logic Direct Drive motor for precise operation. Individual motors are used for tape play, rewind and fast forward. This Logic Control also enables features like multi-play music search and pre-set electronic tuning.

A complimentary range of



modular components, ranging from a practical half-DIN sized graphic equalizer to amplifiers and speakers able to handle outputs up to 150 Watts (max) per channel, take the Centrate story further.

The Pioneer EQ-003 seven-band pre-amp equalizer with dual amplifier balancing and automatic sound leveller can be accompanied in the same DIN dash slot by the similarly sized pre-amp controller for the optional GTS-X80 sub-woofer.

This remote glass fibre and polyester blended flat diaphragm speaker is driven by a separate 100 W (max) mono main amplifier housed in the same resonance-free aluminium die-cast enclosure. In this form, it can be located on the rear parcel shelf or on the rear floor.

Pioneer is recommending one of two high powered amplifiers

to compliment the Centrate system: the 60 W (max) per channel GMA120 and the monster 150 W (max) per channel GMA200. Both need to be remotely mounted in the vehicle to achieve best results, such as in the boot.

Pioneer is not looking for volume sales with Centrate. At a retail price for the complete system likely to approach \$2500 the product is a flag waver for the Australian car sound market leaders. It is also likely to be keenly sought after by many car audio enthusiasts whose music tastes have been raised over recent years by products such as those in the Pioneer Component range which Centrate now eclipses in performance and features.

For more information contact Pioneer, PO Box 295, Morialloc, Vic 3195. (03)580-9911.

### OBITUARY

A POSTHUMOUS award was made to Mr Spencer A. Hughes at the annual award dinner of the Federation of British Audio on May 10 at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London, for 'outstanding service to the industry'.

Spencer Hughes was the chairman and senior technical director of Spendor Audio Systems Ltd, whose loudspeakers are widely used by the British Broadcasting Corporation, Independent Broadcasting Authority, British Telecom and many other professional organisations, as well as the domestic consumer and extensive export markets.

Hughes is most famous for the BC1 loudspeaker, which is probably the only pre-1970 designed speaker still in production. It is found in a variety of professional locations in Australia.

## New amp from Meridian

A new amplifier, the first from Meridian since the seminal 103/105 series, in production for nearly eight years, is designed to offer "highest performance, great versatility and absolute reliability," according to their publicity.

Designated the MPA, it is a dual-mono design, with two identical separate power supplies based on the 'switchmode' system, first devised by Bob Stuart for the MCA Zebra integrated modular amplifier system released earlier this year.

Nominal power output of the MPA in normal stereo operation is 70 watts per channel into 8 ohms. The amplifier can easily

be bridged for mono using a factory-made accessory lead, when it will deliver up to 200 watts into 8 ohms.

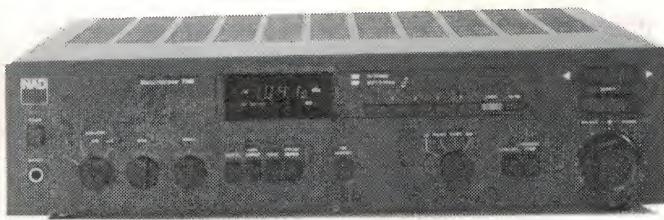
Meridian's Bob Stuart, Britain's self-styled 'leading light' in innovative audio technique, has incorporated many of the highly-developed circuit ideas first realised in the MCA Zebra system into the new amplifier.

Of these, most tangible is the balanced input facility, which allows full advantage to be taken of the low noise floor resulting from the new switchmode power supplies through very high common-mode noise rejection and precise matching to Meridian's flexible modular lin-

ear preamplifier system.

Meridian MPA styling harmonises with other current Meridian products, and its tough steel case is finished in durable and attractive grey Nextel. Inputs are via DIN or RCA sockets, outputs via 4 mm sockets and remote control on/off switching is available via fitted tip/sleeve phone jacks.

The MPA amplifier is available now from Meridian outlets at approximately \$1350 r.r.p. For the name of your nearest retailer and further information on the complete Meridian range, contact Mike Bartlett, Audio 2000, PO Box 107, Brookvale 2100 NSW. (02)939-2159.



## Digital stereo

**N**AD has released its new digital stereo FM/AM receiver, the model 7140, on to the Australian market.

It features digital frequency synthesis tuning, which produces what the makers claim is superior audio sensitivity and quieting. The preamp is designed to be interfaced with moving magnet pickups as well as moving coil cartridges and CD players. The entire amplifier has a dynamic range sufficient to meet the most demanding requirements even of compact disc players, according to the manufacturers.

The 7140 is rated at 40 W per channel and has a variable impedance output to allow you to drive the speakers to full power regardless of their impedance. It will deliver 80 W in peak bursts.

The phono preamp does not use ICs, but a pair of low-noise transistors in a differential input

circuit. Circuit gain may be increased by twenty to adapt the input circuitry for different input signals.

The NAD 7140 features a bass equaliser section that amplifies the deep bass response and an infrasonic filter to eliminate rumble. It also has a high current output stage that is able to deliver peak currents greater than 30A for precise control of speaker voice coils even when the speaker impedance is as low as 2 ohms.

The FM section has an input sensitivity of 1.7  $\mu$ V/300R with AM rejection of better than 65 dB. Total harmonic distortion is 0.09 per cent. The AM section has a sensitivity of 300  $\mu$ V/meter and selectivity of 35 dB. Image and IF rejection are both claimed to be 50 dB.

For more information contact the **Falk Electrosound Group P.O. Box 234, Rockdale NSW 2216.**

## Production video monitor

**A**new 20" colour video monitor with four-system compatibility has been released in Australia by GEC.

The monitor is designed for use in production situations and features a fully-equipped interface section to link with other segments of a complex video system. The new TC-2000EUM monitor can be used with four colour formats — PAL, SECAM, 3.58 NTSC and 4.43 NTSC.

An NTSC tint control is also included in the monitor to help gain the proper flesh tones with NTSC signals. It features the famous Quintrix in-line picture tube with a black matrix configuration. A front panel selector is provided on the TC-2000EUM

to allow operators to switch between VTR, line and camera input signals, while the rear panel includes a BNC-type monitor-out jack to link it to another monitor.

Up to two additional monitors can be connected in series to provide three images from a single source. The TC-2000EUM has an automatic source compensation circuit which eliminates unevenness in performance due to fluctuations in the power supply. It also has pin-type (RCA) audio input and output terminals and an 8-pin VTR connector.

The TC-2000EUM is available in Australia through **GEC Australia, 2 Giffnock Avenue, North Ryde NSW. (02)887-6222.**

## Ear tranny launched

**S**portswatchers and radio fans of Australia — help is at hand. A new lightweight radio which can be worn on the ear has just been released.

Called Ear Tranny, the AM radio allows footy fans, racegoers and golfers to listen to a radio and keep both hands free at the same time.

Unlike walk-around style radios, Ear Tranny is a 40 mm diameter self-contained unit weighing just 20 grams. The cordless battery-powered radio can be hooked onto either ear and sits easily in place for long listening periods.

Ear Tranny is available through major stores for \$17.95 including battery.

For further information contact **Futuretronics, 79 Levenswell Rd, Moorabbin, Vic 3189. (03)579-2266.**

the full range of TRP Spectrum loudspeakers, with models ranging from diminutive bookshelf units to professional studio monitors.

Each model in the range has been designed to maintain phase coherency of the waveform over the entire operating frequency spectrum. Each speaker is tested via B & K measuring equipment as it comes off the production line. The result is a sound that challenges the transient response and low distortion figures previously associated only with electrostatic designs, but at a fraction of the price.

All models can handle power commensurate with their size and are finished in rosewood or pine. Prices vary from \$549 for the bookshelf (TRP Model VIII) to \$1179 for the Model VI, to \$1799 for the studio monitor.

For more information contact **Hughes Communications, 2/58 Moonya Road, Carnegie Vic 3163. (03)568-0612.**

## Car stereo

**S**anyo has announced the release of a new car stereo cassette player with 7.5 W per channel output.

The balance and tone controls of the FT-800 have an easy-to-operate slide mechanism, and a play indicator shows you when the deck is in operation. A light in the volume knob enables easy location of the knob when driving at night. The extra-compact design of the FT-800 allows easy installation.

The FT-800 is available from electrical retailers, department stores and selected car accessory outlets for around \$59.95.

For more information contact **Sanyo, 14 Mars Rd, Lane Cove NSW 2066. (02)428-0822.**

## Spectrum from Hughes

**H**ughes Communications has announced its appointment as sole Australian distributor for the entire range of premium quality Spectrum audio components.

First shipments will include

## OFFICIAL AM STEREO START

Radio stations throughout Australia would be able to start broadcasting in AM stereo from 1 February, 1985 according to the Minister for Communications, Mr Michael Duffy.

The decision to adopt 1 February as the official starting date follows negotiations with representatives of the radio industry. The most important consideration was that the three-month period before 1 February would enable all stations wishing to broadcast in AM stereo to install equipment to meet the Motorola standard.

The go-ahead for AM stereo and the decision to adopt the Motorola system as the Australian standard were announced by the Minister on 8 October, 1984.

The three month period before the official start would also enable importers and distributors of AM stereo receivers to make available a wider range of models for consumers to consider.

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LAE POWER-CONTROL SYSTEMS enables a wide range of micro-computers to control electrical devices by remote control.

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There is no need for additional wiring of any kind, because the system communicates over existing 240V A.C. wiring. Selected devices simply plug into the portable Appliance receivers, and the receivers are plugged into any 240V A.C. power point in the building. Light receivers have a dimming capability, and they are available in "plug-in" and "wire-in" versions.

**LAE POWER-CONTROL SYSTEM** is totally designed and manufactured in Australia for Australian conditions. Portable receivers are fully approved by the Australian Energy Authority.

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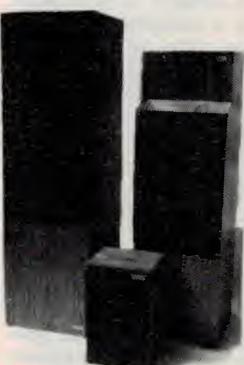
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40 Hz—20 KHz ±3 dB  
100 W, 8Ω,  
84 dB SPL, 1 W  
**\$1179.00**

**Model VIII [Bookshelf]**  
50 Hz—20 KHz ±5 dB, 8Ω,  
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# 'A SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE'

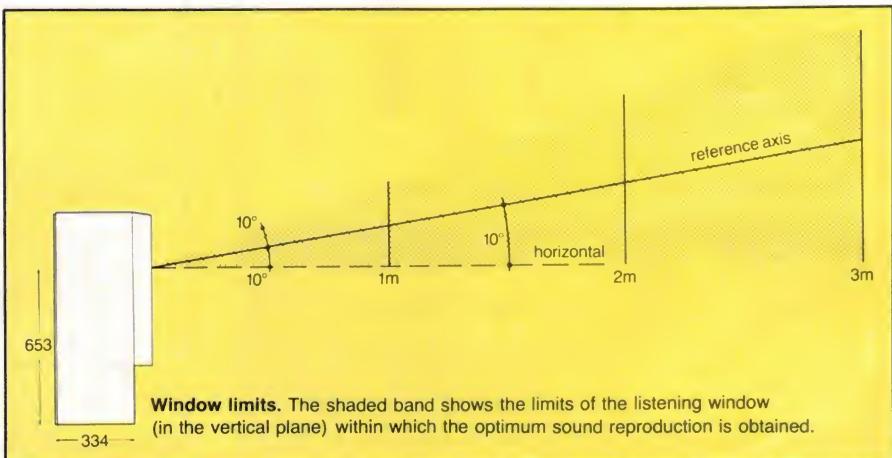
## KEF's 104/2 speakers reviewed

"Wide dynamic range", "low colouration", "stable stereo imaging" are just some of the claims KEF makes about its new 104/2 speakers. Louis Challis tested them and agrees: maybe not pushing 'state of the art' to the extreme the 104/2 speakers are certainly a step forward.

### Louis Challis

THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR of KEF, Laurie Fincham, is a relatively quiet and unassuming engineer. The firm for whom he works, KEF Electronics Ltd of Tovil, also tends to be relatively unassuming, but obviously in the commercial sense, not as quiet. I first met Laurie Fincham in Moscow in 1974 at a meeting of the International Electro-Technical Commission (TC 29). It was there that I and a number of other national representatives first became aware of the outstanding development work that KEF had undertaken in the objective analysis of how speakers sound. Many other people had tried to achieve a similar goal, but Fincham was the first person to actually produce an objective test for loudspeakers which really correlated "with the way a loudspeaker sounds".

In the ensuing years, what KEF had developed became the 'industry standard'



#### KEF 104/2 speakers

Dimensions:	900 mm high x 280 mm wide x 415 mm deep
Weight:	32 kg
Manufactured:	In Kent, England by KEF Electronics Ltd
Recommended	
Retail Price:	\$1 999 per pair

Dividing and load matching network LF

Balanced twin bass drivers

Real wood veneers

Coupled cavity bass enclosure

High density damping polymer

Dividing and load matching network MF/HF

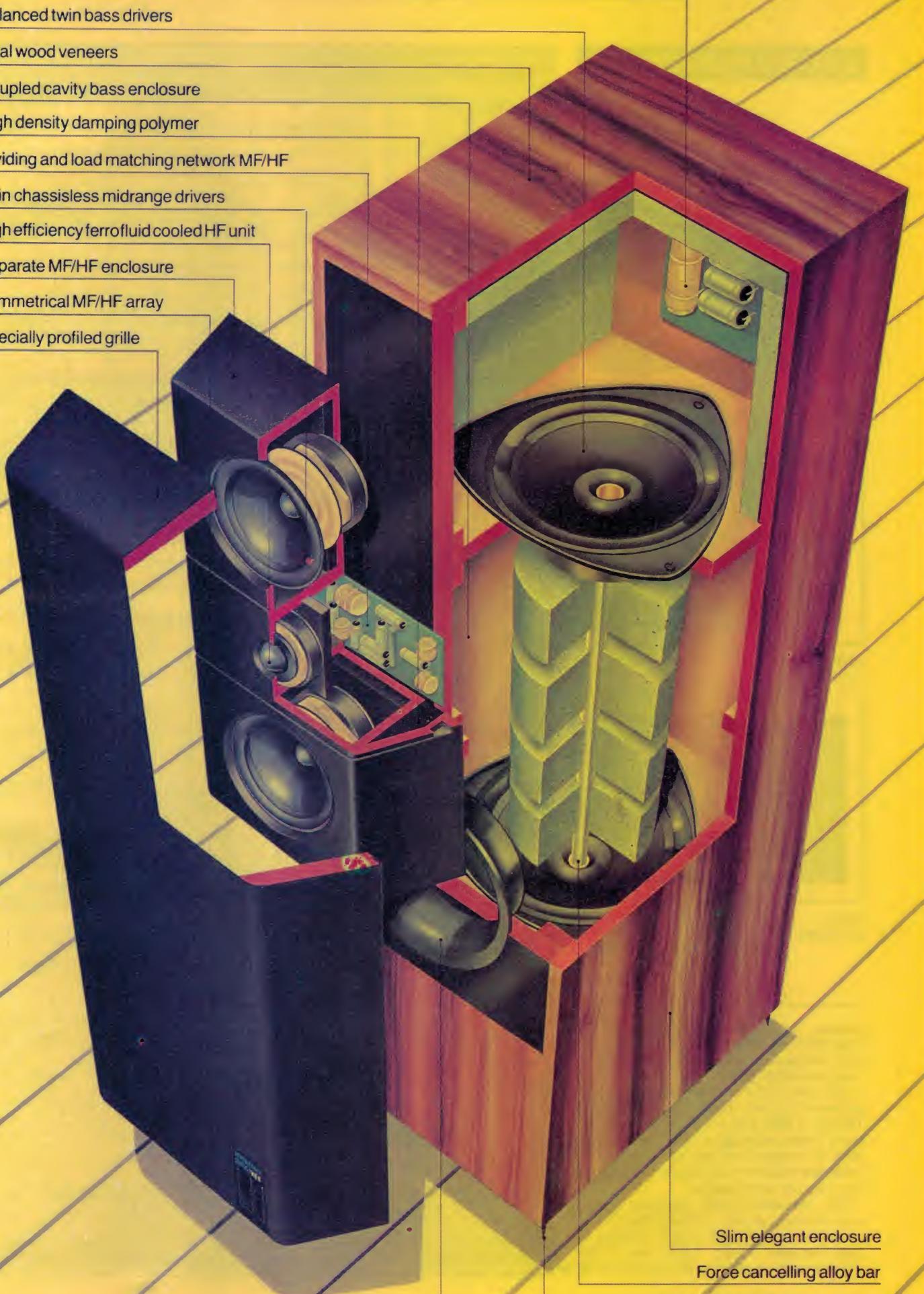
Twin chassisless midrange drivers

High efficiency ferrofluid cooled HF unit

Separate MF/HF enclosure

Symmetrical MF/HF array

Specially profiled grille



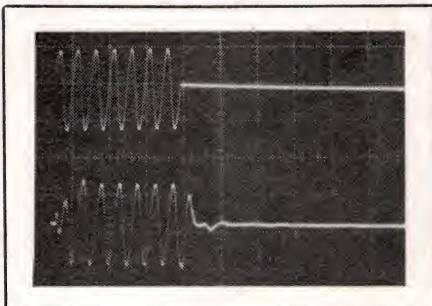
Slim elegant enclosure

Force cancelling alloy bar

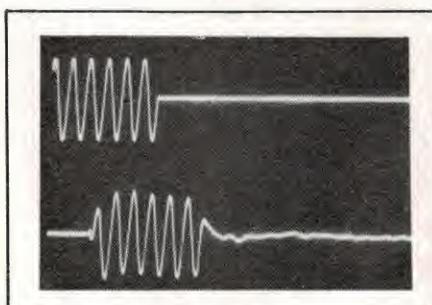
Adjustable screw-in feet

Contoured low frequency duct

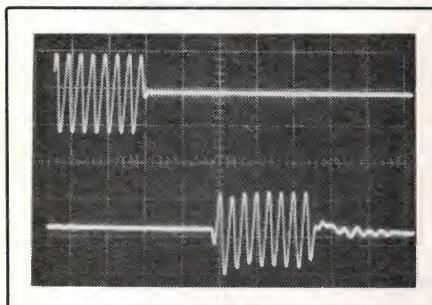
## SOUND REVIEW



100 Hz  
(20 ms/div)



1 kHz  
(2 ms/div)

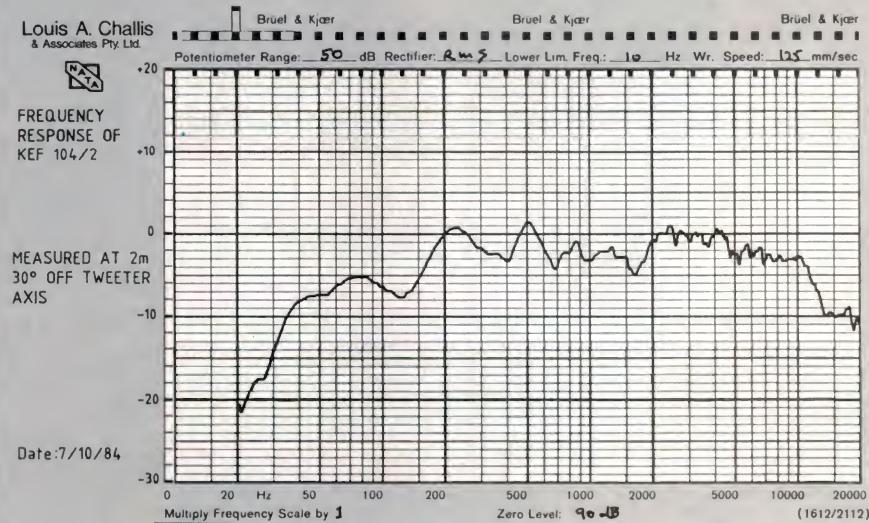
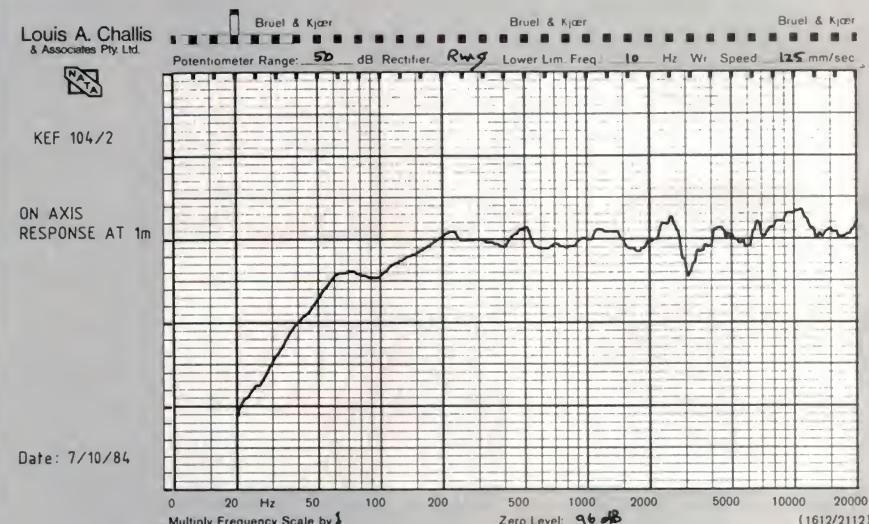
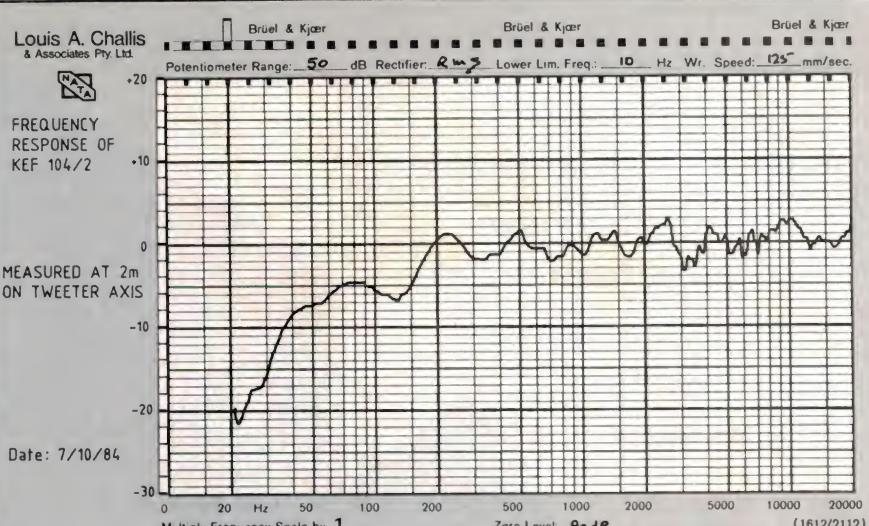


6.3 kHz  
(0.5 ms/div)

systems using multi-driver units. This characteristic is not however, deleterious and the phase response of this speaker is unquestionably good.

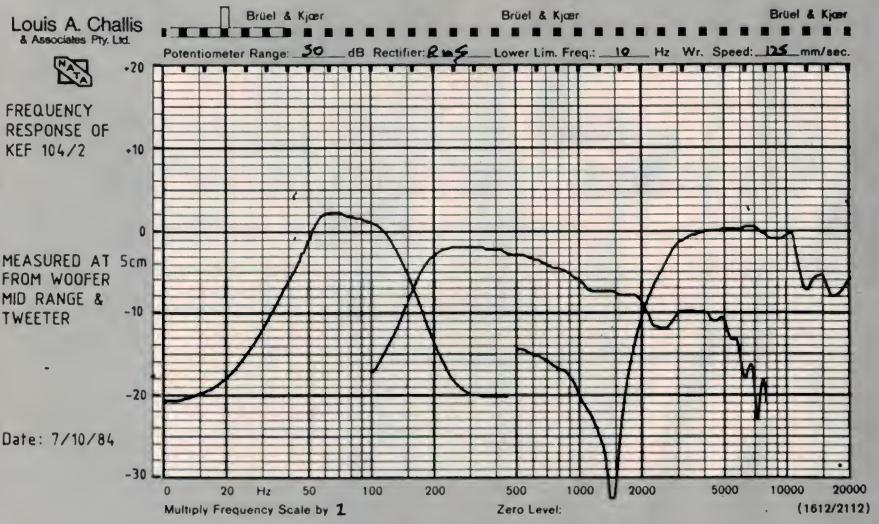
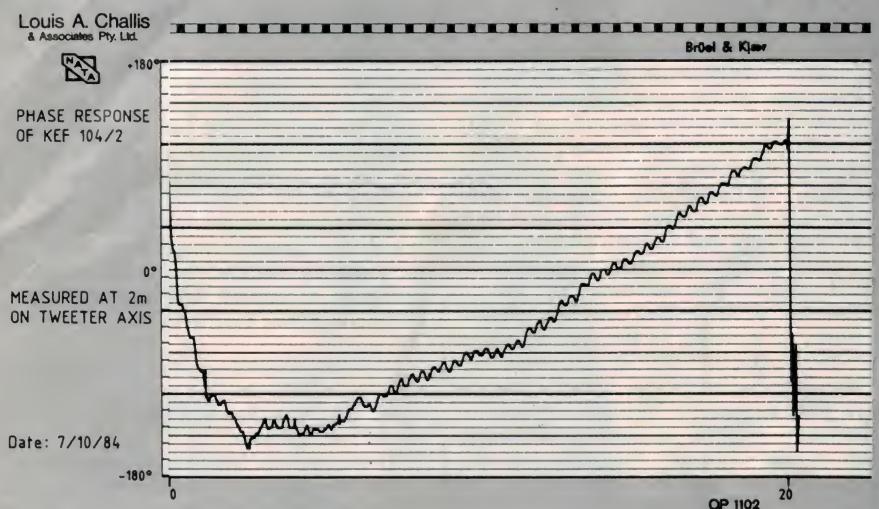
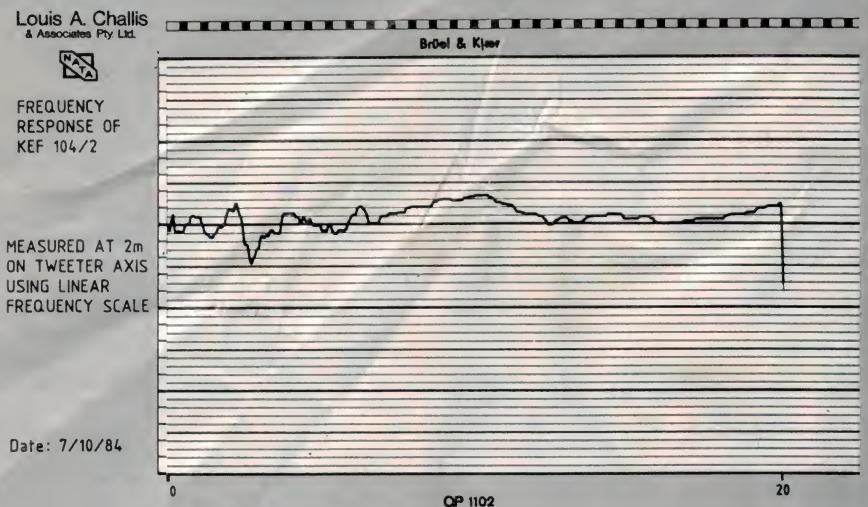
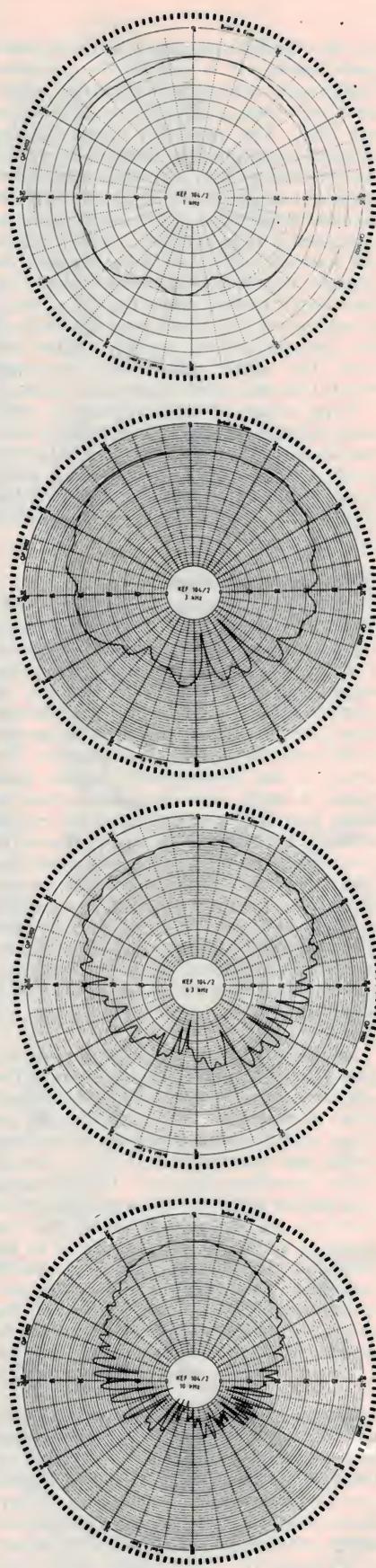
The tone burst response for the speaker measured at the standard frequencies of 100 Hz, 1 kHz and 6.3 kHz were all relatively clean, although at 100 Hz the initial turn-on transient indicated a different effect from that which I would have expected from the coupled cavity design.

The measured decay response spectra was relatively smooth, although there were a couple of significant ripples evident at approximately 2 kHz, 4 kHz and 5 kHz which became significant at between 10 dB



Tone burst response of KEF model 104/2 (for 90 dB steady state SPL at 2 m on axis). Upper trace is elec-

Polar response plots.



Lower trace is loudspeaker output.

for the objective assessment of loudspeaker performance. It is one of the preferred loudspeaker analysis techniques that we too have been using since 1980 (see ETI February 1981). The cumulative decay response analysis technique that Fincham developed has enabled his firm and many other loudspeaker manufacturers to isolate different acoustic deficiencies in the design and construction of their products. These include the resonance effects from the speaker diaphragm, from speaker enclosures, and from the metallic baskets supporting the speaker, as well as the reflections from the inside of the speaker cabinet, speaker basket and even the minor protrusions extending beyond the face of the loudspeaker cabinet.

Being aware of such problems is obviously helpful, being able to accurately measure them is obviously better, but being in a position to be able to obviate them is much harder and an examination of what KEF has done to achieve that aim is the point of this particular review.

### The new design

The KEF 104/2 monitor loudspeaker probably incorporates more outstanding technological advances than any other loudspeaker released in the last five years. This statement, it should be noted, is mine not the manufacturers. The outside of the cabinet may give you some inkling that this speaker is different from other loudspeakers. The shape of the cloth-covered speaker front panel is much more prominent (and for some inexplicable reason does not extend down to the floor). When you remove the front panel you find a plastic moulded box-like structure on the face of which are two mid-range speakers flanking a centrally mounted tweeter. This structure has a truncated tapered appearance and is fixed above a large aerodynamically shaped loading port also moulded from plastic, which is set back under the lower edge of the plastic box structure.

Looking through the loading port you gain your first insight into what makes this speaker system substantially different from other loudspeakers. What you actually see is one of the two low frequency driver units which are inter-connected by a vertical 'force cancelling alloy bar'. The two separate magnet structures of the twin bass drive units are mechanically linked so that the opposing vibrations normally set up in the individual chassis structures are positively cancelled. This linked bar coupling procedure ensures that the energy of the magnet assembly, which would normally be coupled to the speaker cabinet and result in a 'boomy' or 'boxy' speaker colouration, is minimised.

The resonance effects of the bar itself and the cavity resonance in the enclosed space between the two bass drivers is further attenuated by interposing a series of shaped circular foam plastic elements over the bar. These reduce the standing waves within the cavity and provide a smooth low frequency sound generator. The 'coupled cavity bass

loading system' provides maximum power handling capacity in the 70 to 100 Hz region where KEF claims normal programme content has its peak spectral energy. This means of course, that speaker distortion and power handling capacity in the lower 40 Hz to 70 Hz range (where some of my records, tapes and discs have considerable content) cannot be controlled to the same degree. The attributes of this coupled cavity bass loading system result in a low frequency driver system with acoustic characteristics similar to those provided by an infinite baffle, but without necessarily suffering the loss of low frequency efficiency of the infinite baffle.

The low frequency port has a diameter similar to that of the mid-range units to match their style and their directional characteristics. These two mid-range drivers incorporate the revolutionary feature of dispensing with speaker baskets which give rise to so many resonance problems in the conventional loudspeaker. In their place KEF has used the high strength plastic moulded box structure which incorporates an unusually high level of dampening. Speaker diaphragms are mounted on the back of the front panel and the drive magnet assemblies are mounted on the front of the back panel.

These two mid-frequency drivers operate from the unusually low frequency of 150 Hz up to a frequency of approximately 2 kHz, a far greater range than normal for mid-range speakers. Although the speakers carry much more sound energy than normal, they share their load and thereby achieve a better sound distribution in the critical 200 to 400 Hz region. The soft dome tweeter incorporates a ferro-fluid cooled magnet structure to increase its thermal efficiency and also to provide superior performance.

The improvements in speaker design have gone beyond the normal electrical requirements and KEF has spent considerable time on little details. The design of the speaker cabinet and the front grille cloth cover has been carefully attended to re-

duce resonance effects, diffraction effects, and sound cancellation effects to produce what KEF states is one of the finest loudspeakers it has yet produced.

### The peak feature

While most of these features are commendable and, to say the least, unusual, I believe that the most novel and undoubtedly exciting feature of their design is the incorporation of what KEF describes as its "Conjugate Load Matching System" (see Figure 1). This impedance matching system goes much further than the conventional cross-over network, which is intended to provide the amplifier with a compatible load from the complex impedance characteristics of the loudspeaker system. What the conjugate matching system actually does is to take the peaks and bumps of the speaker system's reactive components and add in parallel, the opposite reactive impedances provided by those peaks and bumps. The overall load impedance curve that the amplifier sees at the speaker terminals is thus a 'flat' resistance curve with almost negligible reactive components (see Figure 2).

Obviously to develop a cross-over network with conjugate impedance characteristics is a relatively complex task. It is not quite the sort of task you would consider tackling with a slide rule or a pocket calculator, but it is well within the capability of modern digital computers. It also happens to be one area where KEF's technical research has already scored high marks for its handling of the much more difficult problems associated with the analysis of decay response spectra back in the early 70's.

KEF has decided to tailor the overall impedance of this speaker system to 4 ohms, not 8, and have justified this procedure on the following bases:

1. If the speaker impedance does not drop below 4 ohms (or rise above it) then the amplifier should not be distressed by

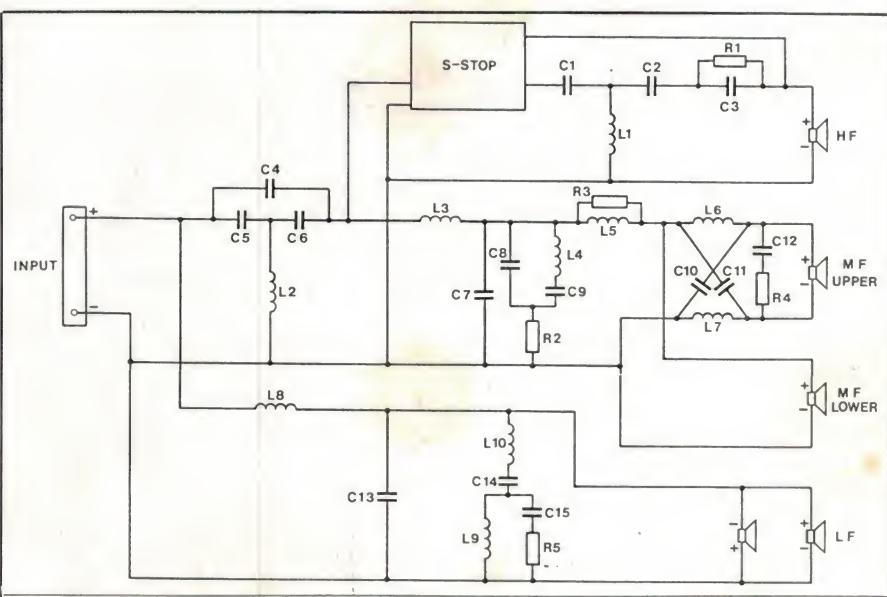


Figure 1. The 'conjugate load matching' crossover network.

## LOUDSPEAKER DATA SHEET

MEASURED PERFORMANCE OF: KEF MODEL 104/2

SERIAL NO: 001059

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 50 Hz to 20 kHz +

CROSSOVER FREQUENCIES: 150 Hz to 2.3 kHz

SENSITIVITY:

(for 96 dB average at 1m) 6.2 V r.m.s. = 8.5 Watts (nominal into 4.5 Ohms)

HARMONIC DISTORTION: (for 96 dB at 1m) 100Hz 1kHz 6.3kHz

	2nd	-42.6	-54.1	-42.5	dB
	3rd	-42.4	-61.5	-56.5	dB
	4th	-	-	-59.1	dB
	5th	-56.8	-66.8	-	dB
	THD	1.07	0.22	0.77	%

INPUT IMPEDANCE  
ONE TEST:

100Hz/7kHz 4:1

100Hz	4.8	ohms
1kHz	4.0	ohms
6.3kHz	4.4	ohms
Min at 700 Hz	4.0	ohms

Date: 7th October, 1984

KEF 104/2. Tabulated characteristics as measured.

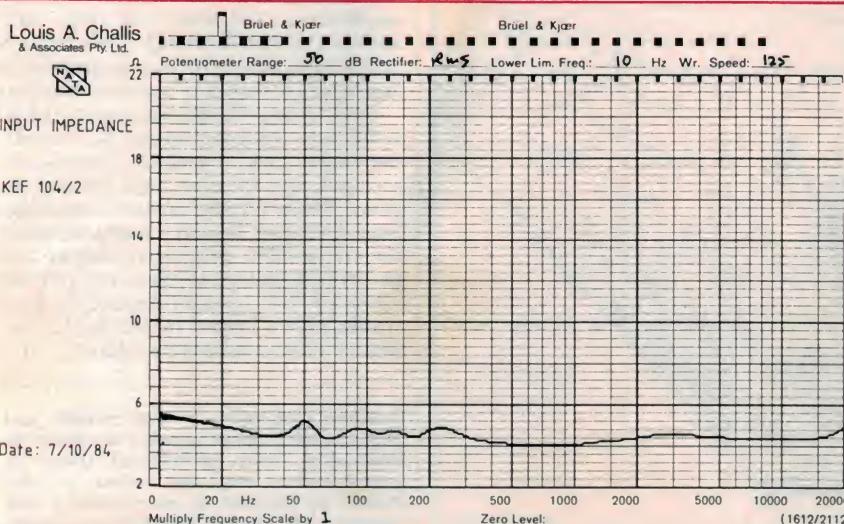


Figure 2. Ever seen an impedance curve this flat before?

transient signals falling anywhere within the overall frequency response, as the perceived load is basically a 'resistor'.

2. If the speaker impedance is 4 ohms then the amplifier is capable of delivering almost twice the power into the speaker load and you don't necessarily need to buy a bigger amplifier to produce more sound.
3. With the lower impedance, the effective sound pressure level for 1 watt of input power is materially increased so that the 'quasi-efficiency' of the speaker system is improved.

### How it tested

The objective evaluation of this speaker confirmed most of the salient characteristics which the manufacturer had claimed and revealed a few that it hadn't. The first set of parameters which we evaluated was the frequency response and polar plots in our anechoic room. At two metres on the tweeter axis the frequency response proved to be reasonably flat, being with  $\pm 6$  dB from 50 Hz to 20 kHz, although the response exhibited a trifle more 'lumpiness' below 150 Hz than I would have expected.

Even allowing for the lack of flat response below 150 Hz, the frequency response from 150 Hz to 20 kHz is almost flat enough for you to perform calibration assessments on your microphones or on your living room to assess standing wave characteristics. Repeating the frequency response curve, at  $30^\circ$  off axis revealed a quite perceptible change in the top of the high frequency curve with 10 dB of attenuation being apparent in the 13 to 20 kHz region. Some ears will detect that drop off axis and it is readily measurable.

We repeated the frequency response test at one metre from the tweeters as a control and this revealed a slightly flatter response, although the lack of precise matching of outputs below 150 Hz was still present. Having determined the basic frequency response characteristics of the speaker it was obviously appropriate to assess its impedance characteristics. Not unexpectedly, the impedance curve proved to be just as the manufacturer promised, essentially flat at 5 ohms  $\pm 1$  ohm right across the frequency spectrum from 10 Hz to 20 kHz. Over the frequency region 20 Hz to 20 kHz the impedance curve proved to be just as the flattest impedance curve that I have ever seen and I suspect is also the flattest that I am likely to see for quite some time to come.

The polar plots assessing the directional energy distribution at 1 kHz, 3 kHz and 6.3 kHz were exceptionally smooth and well within the manufacturer's claims. At 10 kHz however, the primary lobe was somewhat narrower than the manufacturer's claim of being within 2 dB at  $\pm 30^\circ$  in the horizontal plain. I measured a 6 dB droop which is still reasonably good and more in keeping with what I would have expected from a small dome tweeter set back behind the face of the speaker cabinet.

The phase response was remarkably smooth, although the interactions between the two mid-range drivers and the tweeter did give rise to a 'ripple' effect which I have previously observed in a number of other

**"The KEF 104/2 speakers are unquestionably the most outstanding new speakers to be released in 1984. Because they perform so well and are so visually unobtrusive . . . they will probably 'win more approval' for living room compatibility."**

and 25 dB below the transient peak signal level. The best feature of the speaker is its high frequency response, the worst feature its mid-frequency response, which is not as good as I would have expected.

The distortion characteristics of the speaker were particularly good at normal listening levels and with an output signal of 96 dB at one metre there was only 1% harmonic distortion at 100 Hz, a paltry 0.22% at 1 kHz and a somewhat higher 0.77% at 6.3 kHz.

These objective test results are in the main very good, although not superlative considering the advanced technology that has gone into their achievement. However, it is obviously essential to balance such testing with the subjective evaluation which I was delighted to perform.

### The subjective result

The test set-up that I chose for the subjective evaluation of these speakers was based on a comparison of the 104/2 monitors with a pair of B & W 802/F monitor speakers driven by a Yamaha 101M amplifier and a C2 pre-amplifier. The source material was provided by a Sony CDP101 CD player, a Technics model SL5 direct-drive turntable fitted with SME Series 111B arm, a Shure V15/IV cartridge and Audio-Technica AT30E cartridge.

The material used for the evaluation was firstly a series of tried and well-proven test records carefully selected for the purpose. These revealed, on normal orchestral material, the stereo imaging capabilities of the KEF 104/2 speaker systems to be above average, in fact generally excellent, provided you stay within the optimum listening area. This was defined by a point which is 600 mm above the floor and up to 30° above and within a lateral angle of ±20° to the main axis of the speaker. As you move off axis from either one of the pair of speakers, the stereo imaging is significantly impaired and you experience a significant degradation in imaging response.

During the transient testing with the Swedish Hi-Fidelity Institute test record *LJUD och hur det ska lata*, I measured the average peak signal level which I considered appropriate for acceptable subjective distortion: I found it to be typically 107 dB at two metres on axis and 104 dB at three metres on axis.

At higher signal levels there were audible changes which indicated second order distortion products. These changed the nature of the original sound signal to a point at which I could already detect unacceptable speaker colouration.

With the aid of two brilliant new CD discs from Denon Mozart's *Quintets N-7-21* and

Shubert's *Winterreise op 89 D911-No N-10-21*, which are fine examples of the latest digital recorded CD discs, I was able to evaluate the high frequency characteristics of the 104/2s with classical music and with voice. I satisfied myself that the performance of these speakers is very close to the quality of reproduction but not indistinguishable from that provided by the B & W 802/F reference monitors I was using.

With the latest Telarc disc *Star Tracks* CD80094 containing John Williams' brilliant music played by the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra in 'Star Wars', 'Superman', 'Return of the Jedi' and 'Raiders of the Lost Ark', I was able to subject the speakers to music with some of the widest dynamic ranges currently available on CD discs. These pieces confirmed that the speakers perform exceptionally well at frequencies from 60 Hz to 15 kHz, but they do not provide quite the same superlative performance below 60 Hz, particularly where the deep drum rolls and Moog synthesised components incorporate loads of low frequency response calling for a flatter bottom end. More significantly, these pieces revealed a trace of stridency between 2 kHz and 5 kHz particularly on woodwind instruments.

On 'classical' rock, for example The Police's *Ghost in the Machine* AM Records CD53011, the 104/2s performed remarkably well giving adequate performance provided you don't wish to reproduce the same levels that I experienced at the group's Sydney outdoor concert this year.

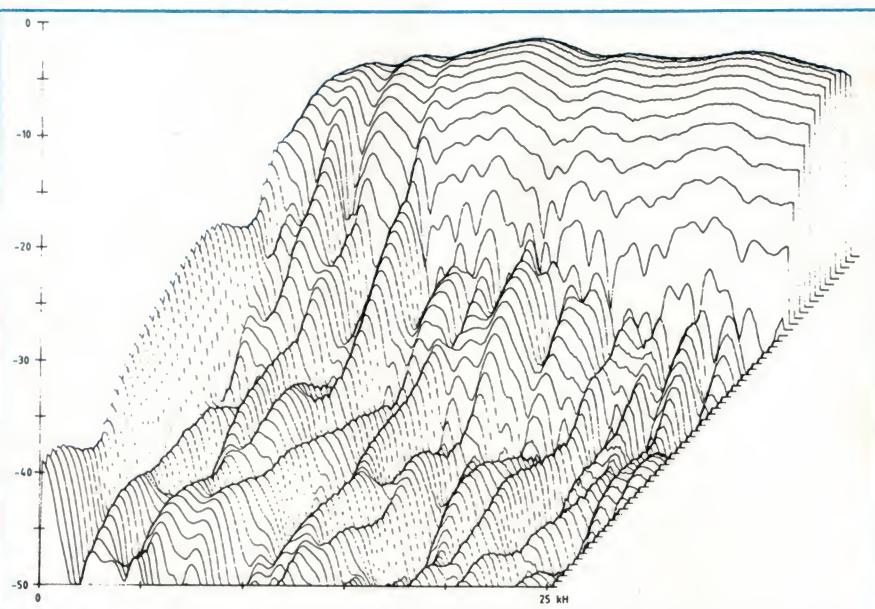
The last series of tests performed with the Denon audio-technical CD test record 38C39-7147 which enabled me to once again assess both the subtleties of the speaker, as well as the latest changes in my listening room, using both wide band pink noise (track 90) and the bands of filtered pink noise (tracks 80-89) which are perfect for that application.

### In summary

The KEF 104/2 speakers are unquestionably the most outstanding new speakers to be released in 1984. They will provide most of their prospective purchasers with as good a performance as they could wish. Because they perform so well and are so visually unobtrusive compared with other similar speakers, they will probably 'win more wife approval' for living room compatibility than any other loudspeaker currently being sold.

The unusual design features of the KEF 104/2 have overcome many, but not all, of the major electro-acoustic limitations associated with speakers' and baskets' resonance. Those improvements as well as being 'state of the art' herald a new generation of esoteric speaker designs creating an acoustic environment closer than ever to 'reality'. The KEF 104/2 speaker comes close to such reality with a degree of technical panache that all of us should truly admire.

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Decay response spectra. Some refinement needed around 2 kHz to 5 kHz.

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C 2015 10W \$11.50 9.50

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Supplied on 200m rolls, enclosed in tough PVC bags in the traditional way. Enables tangle free extraction from centre of roll through hole in the side of PVC bag.



SIX WIRE (Three Pair)  
RED/BLACK/BLUE/  
WHITE/GREEN/ORANGE

W 0303 per metre ..... .60  
per 200m roll ..... \$56.00

#### 20 WIRE (10 Pair)

Pairs 1-5 BLUE/ORANGE/GREEN/BROWN/  
SLATE with White mates  
Pairs 6-10 BLUE/ORANGE/GREEN/BROWN/  
SLATE with Yellow mates

W 0310 per metre ..... \$1.50  
per 200m roll ..... \$200.00

### SHIELD AUDIO CABLES

Lap screened 14/12mm inner conductor size with 48 strand H/Duty screening. Supplied on 100m reels (not Hanks). Eminently suitable for microphone cables, chassis wiring, building wiring.



SINGLE CORE

Per Metre ..... .40  
Per 100m ..... \$25

TWIN CORE

Per Metre ..... .50  
Per 100m ..... \$39

TWIN CORE

Fig "8"

4 CORE

Per Metre ..... .60  
Per 100m ..... \$40

Per Metre ..... \$1.00  
Per 100m ..... \$60.00

### MASSIVE PRICE BREAKTHROUGH! ELECTRONIC BELT DRIVE TURNTABLE BSR QUALITY

Altronics has made a sensational purchase of Belt Drive Turntables - BELOW Manufacturers Cost!! Because of our buy we can pass them on to you at a MASSIVE SAVING. The Turntables are made in England by B.S.R. They are unmounted and suitable for Disco Consoles, 3-in-1's etc. They are also ideal as replacements for existing 3-in-1 sets (See Specifications). But there is an aspect that is really amazing! You can work the Turntable from 9-12V DC. This means that you can run the unit from a car or truck!! (The A 0612 model can of course run on 240V mains) The Turntable features quality Belt Drive operation, lightweight Transcription type arm, Cueing facility and Stereo Ceramic cartridge with Diamond Stylus. The platter has calibration markings to check speed. A simple neon on 240V will strobe to the markings! Whilst the 33 & 45 rpm speed has been accurately set in the factory, you have the facility to make pitch adjustments underneath the turntable. The DC Motor Drive (as used in the best turntables) is electronically controlled!! Each unit comes with complete instructions. Quantity limited! You will have to hurry to avoid disappointment.

#### SPECIFICATION

- \* Dimensions 330 (W) x 285 (D) x 60 (H) mm overall.
- \* Platter Diameter 280 mm.
- \* 2 speed 33 and 45 rpm.
- \* Pick up Arm Counter balanced type with cueing facility.
- \* Pick-up ceramic stereo with diamond stylus
- \* Turntable operation - auto stop, returns to rest automatically. Turntable chassis is sprung on all corners
- \* Output stereo RCA sockets provided
- \* Weight 1.5KG



AMAZING  
LOW PRICE  
CAT A 0612 \$29.95

240V VERSION (includes 12V adaptor)  
CAT A 0614 \$39.95

Freight Packing - due to the bulk and weight of this unit - freight is \$5.00 per unit

\* \* \* \* \*

#### "MICROBEE KEYBOARD"



Now  
ONLY  
\$19.50  
D1510  
\$29.95

Microbee is a registered trademark of Applied Technology Pty Ltd

Full 60 Key Qwerty Computer Keyboard exactly the same type that has been used with the famous Microbee Computer SPST Keys Complete with mounting plate (Fully Assembled).

### Superlative MICRON SERIES H MONITORS

★ 1050 lines resolution at centre screen. ★ 22MHz bandwidth. ★ Video input impedance switch allows networking use. ★ Incredible — repeat Incredible — resolution.

Guaranteed (we mean it) to out perform any other low cost monitor in Australia.

#### \$20 OFF THIS MONTH

D 1115 Series 2 Nonglare Green \$199.50  
D 1116 Series 2 Nonglare Amber \$210.00

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

**Screen** — Green phosphor. **Front Controls** — Power on/off, character brightness/intensity, display centering.

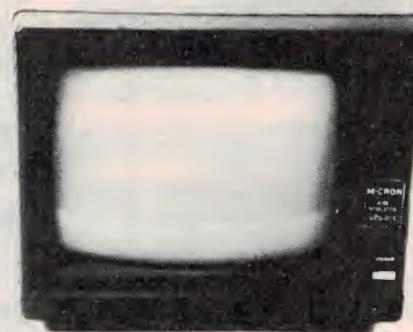
**Rear Controls** — Background intensity, vertical and horizontal adjustment etc.

**Input Impedance** — Switch 75/10K.

**DC Socket** — 12V DC output at 1.1 amp — power your micro direct from the monitor.

**Bandwidth** — 10Hz-22MHz. **Resolution** —

1050 lines minimum at centre screen.



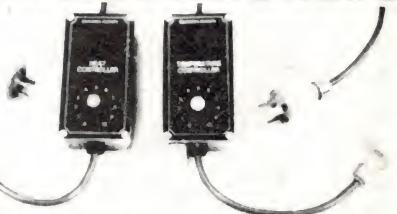
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# ALTRONICS

## MONEY BACK ★ PLUS \$5.00 GUARANTEE

**Save power: build these  
Heat Controllers**



Ref: EA July 1984

**Features**

- Continuously variable heat setting
- Massive 1200 watt load capacity
- Employs zero voltage switching design to min. RF interference.

**Heat Controller**

Manual dial controller—great for room radiators, vertical grills, electric blankets and 100 & 1 power/heat applications.

K 6010 ..... only \$29.50

**Temperature Controller**

Dial controller with auto temperature sensing. Ideal for sensing ambient temperature in conjunction with appliance control e.g. can be used to automatically turn on your Electric Blanket when room temperature drops to relevant temperature. Another application could be with say solar heating of Swimming Pool, Spa etc.

K 6011 ..... value \$32.50

Every last component, mains connectors etc supplied.

### \* PANBRAKE SHEET METAL BENDER

Our Panbrake Sheet Metal bender continues to be so incredibly popular that we seem to continually run out of stock. So this time we've bought a veritable mountain of them. Make your own chassis and save a fortune.



Make your own chassis,  
boxes brackets etc.  
Unique slotted upper clamping bar  
allows complex corner bends etc.

Handles up to 16 gauge metal and up to  
445mm wide

**DIRECT IMPORT PRICE**

T 2400 ..... only \$79.95

**MINI STRIP 100 HOLES**

P 1000 ..... \$2.50 \$1.95

**640 HOLES**

P 1005 ..... \$9.80 \$8.50

**640 + 100 HOLES**

P 1007 ..... \$11.95 \$10.00

**640 + 200 HOLES**

P 1009 ..... \$13.98 \$12.00

NON-CORROSIVE  
NICKEL ALLOY CONTACTS  
RELIABLE FOR  
50,000 INSERTIONS



**40 WATT MODEL**

Suits small appliances, ie. Turntables, Tape Decks, Shavers etc. Variable frequency adjustment enables speed control of turntables. Works as a trickle charger when mains power is available.

EASY CONSTRUCTION → VALUE PLUS

K 6700 ..... \$55.00

**★ PROTOTYPE SOLDERLESS BREAD BOARDS ★**



**400 + 1280 HOLES**

ACCEPTS UP TO 16  
x 16 pin DIL IC'S

SCREW  
TERMINALS FOR  
PS CONNECTIONS  
P 1012

\$29.50 \$26.00



**500 + 1920 HOLES**

ACCEPTS UP TO 24 x 16 pin  
DIL IC'S

METAL BACKING PLATE FOR  
SHIELDING OF SENSITIVE  
CIRCUITY  
P 1015

\$45.00 \$38.00

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**\$5.00 Overnight JetService** - We process your order the day received and despatch via overnight JetService Courier for delivery next day. Country areas please allow additional 24-48 hours. Weight limit 3kgs

**\$10.00 Heavy Heavy Service** - All orders of 10kgs or more must travel express road - Please allow 7 days for delivery

**Insurance** - As with virtually every other Australian supplier, we send goods at consignee's risk. Should you require comprehensive insurance cover against loss or damage please add 1% to order value (minimum charge \$1). When phone ordering please request "Insureme"

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WALKATCHEM D & J Pease 81 132

NT DARWIN Ventronics 81 3491

REYNELLA Force Electronics 381 2824

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Electronic Components 80 4654

Scientechnics 54 8334

Australis 47 5172

ASCOM

Ascom Electronics 52 1713

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ACT CITY

D & I Agencies 34 7877

GEORGE HARVEY Hobart 34 2233

Launceston 31 6533

GEORGE HARVEY

Hobart 34 2233

Launceston 21 8861

GEORGE HARVEY

## Stereo signal generator

The recent launch of AM stereo has created a need for stereo signal generators for all types of audio system testing.

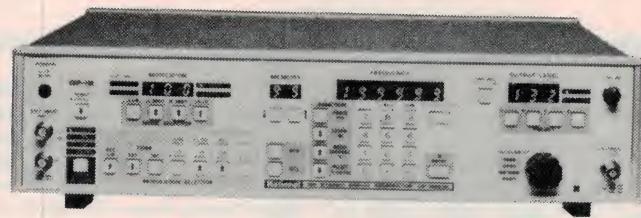
The VP-8253A from National is designed to provide AM stereo multiplex signals for measurement and test of the fidelity and separation of AM stereo receivers in any of the four AM stereo systems.

It permits preset of frequency, output level and modulation for easy operation. With a conventional signal generator, even skilled operators need a long time to adjust all controls for the required setup. But with this signal generator, it is easy to preset up to 100 front panel setups for

instant use.

The built-in memory backup battery protects preset data stored in random-access memory (RAM) even when the power switch is turned off. These settings can easily be changed from the front-panel to suit new test and measurement requirements.

Oscillation frequency stabilized by a phase-locked loop, high output level at 13 dBm (19 dBm for CW), easy operation by interlocked preset, control by GP-IB interface, memory control and other features make



this signal generator a convenient research and development instrument as well as an efficient production tool for AM stereo receivers.

This unit covers the frequency range of 200 kHz to 2 MHz. Resolution is 10 Hz. Parameter settings may be entered using either the numeric keys or the rotary encoder knob on the front panel.

The output may be arranged to provide L=R, L only, R only, or L=-R mode using an external or internal test tone.

A front panel switch enables selection of two built-in test tones: 400 Hz and 1 kHz.

A negative peak clipper is available for the main channel. The pilot signal frequencies and modulation ranges are 25 Hz and 0-10% for C-QUAM and CPM, 15 Hz and 0 to 10 for ISM, and 5 Hz (0-10.0 rad) for am-pm.

For more information contact Scientific Devices, 2 Jacks Rd, South Oakleigh, Vic 3167. (03)579-3622

## Analogue/digital panel meter

**S**ifam has introduced a cased version of its 'Harmony' dual read-out, digital/analogue, multi-range, programmable panel meter.

The Harmony was launched about two years ago as a component device for building into OEM equipment, with its LCD display and associated PC board designed for mounting together

on a panel, or separately within equipment circuitry.

However, following a demand for non-specialist users, the company has developed a self-contained Harmony meter, fully enclosed within a standard DIN 43700 — 96 mm x 48 mm moulded case.

The Harmony resembles a conventional LCD digital meter,

but it also incorporates an analogue bar beneath the digital reading which expands or contracts in proportion to the reading.

It incorporates a microprocessor and can be programmed as a multi-range meter covering several different measurement functions or ranges. A separate sector of the LCD can be used to

flag the specific range being measured at any one time.

The meter also can be programmed to act as a set-point meter to initiate alarm or control functions at pre-settable low or high set-points.

For more information contact C & K Electronics, 15 Cowper Street, Parramatta NSW 2150. (02)635-0799.

## PCB drilling machine

**A** high quality PCB drilling machine, designed for accurate and reliable work, is available from RS Components.

The machine is constructed of strong aluminium frame and base with phosphor-bronze drill bearing to give excellent operating stability. The high speed drill operates at 18000 rpm and offers a large throat depth of 240 mm. This machine incorporates a powerful vacuum unit with a flexible extension tube and adjustable head. The vacuum unit removes all drilling swarf to keep boards clean and clear for drilling. The suction tube and unit are easily removed and emptied of collected swarf (no separate bag needed). Two sliding depth stops limit the drills vertical movement and an

adjustment for drill handle tension offers a wide range of operator control.

The PCB drilling machine is powered by 240 V. All motors and secondary controls operate from an internal 12 V supply. The controls on the machine include illuminated on/off switch, drill on/off switch with indicator, suction on/off with indicator, automatic drill and suction with indicator, and working area lamp on/off. For protection both primary and secondary circuits are fitted with panel fuses.

For further details on this machine, stock no. 606-664, contact Radiospares Components, 28 Northwood Street, West Leederville, Western Australia 6007. (09)381-4799.

## Sound level meter

**A** high quality environmental monitoring sound level meter, type 1404D, has been released by RS Components. Supplied to RS by Dawe Instruments, this meter provides a direct reading over the range 34 dBA to 130 dBA.

The instrument consists of a highly stable and robust ceramic microphone, weighting network, attenuators, high-gain amplifier and an indicating meter. The internationally standardised A-weighting frequency response is used to provide readings which correlate best with subjective noise assessment. Thus this meter is ideally suited to measurements relevant to hearing conservation and noise annoyance checks. The normal response of the meter is very

rapid, to simulate that of the human ear. An alternative slow response may also be selected, to give an average of fluctuating sounds. The meter is also useful for a wide variety of audio checks e.g. loud speaker output, alarm and audible warning device levels.

The low current consumption permits the use of a single small dry battery, giving a typical operational life of 100 hours. Each meter is complete with a battery, carrying case and a very comprehensive manual.

For further details in the RS Sound Level meter, stock no. 610-988, contact Radiospares Components, 28 Northwood Street, W. Leederville, WA 6007 or phone (09) 381-4799.

## Comprehensive PCB prototyping kit

The Electrolube CM100 Circuit Maker kit provides virtually everything needed for making positive photographic film masters from same size tape patterns or published layouts. It also provides everything necessary to produce either single or double sided boards from the resulting positives.

Just released on the Australian market by Richard Foot Pty Ltd, the local representatives for Electrolube, the CM100 Circuit Maker kit extends the company's product range beyond its well known range of chemicals and service aids for the electronics industry. The CM100 is described as a comprehensive system for the creation of professional quality circuit boards, and provides virtually everything needed to produce photo-etched boards in small volumes. It should therefore be suitable for schools, colleges, R & D labs, model shops or anyone else who needs to

produce small quantities of high quality boards.

The kit really consists of two separate sections. One contains all of the items necessary to produce film positives, and the other the items necessary to produce boards from the positives. No darkroom or camera is required. For film-making you get:

- 12 sheets of autopositive film (160 x 100 mm);
- a photoflood lamp (240 V, 500 W);
- chemicals: developer parts A and B, fixer, clearing solution;
- universal exposure and assembly frame;
- retouching pen;
- photographic dishes, plastic gloves;
- liquid measure, liquid crystal thermometer;
- cotton wool, film clips, lint-free cloth;

and for board-making you get these additional items:



6 double-sided fibreglass PCB blanks (160 x 100 mm); photoresist, applicator holder and foam strip; chemicals: photoresist, copper etchant, flux/protective lacquer; 2 x 1.1 mm HSS twist drills; scouring pad.

Also included in the kit is a brochure giving step by step instructions on how to produce both film positives and finished PCBs

from them, and a troubleshooting chart.

The CM100 Circuit Maker kit normally sells for the recommended retail price of \$180.20, but is currently available at a special introductory price of \$129. Further details from the Electrolube agents and distributors, Richard Foot Pty Ltd, 75 Chandos Street, St Leonards NSW 2065. (02)439-1391.

# SOAR HAND HELD DIGITAL MULTIMETER

## MODEL ME 530

This versatile, go-anywhere Multimeter is part of a range from the Soar Corporation. It's an economical instrument that offers reliable, accurate measurement of various functions.

It's packed with features that are usually only found on more expensive brands, features like:

- FE type liquid crystal display, 3½ digits
- Full Autoranging

- Built-in continuity buzzer
- Overload protection
- Low battery indication
- Battery operated (Approx. 300 hrs on two AA sizes 1.5V batteries)
- Diode test
- Measures from 0.1 µA, up to 10A. AC or DC, 5 ranges

See this and other models in the range at all L&H sales centres. With nearly 100 outlets Australia wide, there's bound to be one near you.



**LAWRENCE & HANSON**

# THE BRILLIANT SERIES 5000

STILL GOING STRONG  
INDIVIDUAL COMPONENTS TO MAKE UP A  
SUPERB HIFI SYSTEM.

By directly importing and a more technically orientated organisation, ROD IRVING ELECTRONICS can bring you these products at lower prices than their competitors. Enjoy the many other advantages of RIE Series 5000 kits such as "Super Finish" front panels at no extra cost, top quality components supplied throughout. Over 1,000 Sold.

For those who haven't that time and want a quality hi-fi, we also sell the Series 5000 kits Assembled and Tested.

## POWER AMPLIFIER

WHY YOU SHOULD BUY A "ROD IRVING ELECTRONICS" SERIES 5000 POWER AMPLIFIER.

- ★ 1% Metal Film resistors are used where possible.
- ★ Aluminium case as per the original article.
- ★ All components are top quality.
- ★ Over 1000 of these kits now sold.
- ★ Super Finish front panel supplied at no extra cost.

Please note that the "Superb Quality" Heatsink for the Power Amplifier was designed and developed by ROD IRVING ELECTRONICS and is being supplied to other kit suppliers.

**SPECIFICATIONS:** 150 W RMS into 4 ohms

POWERS OUTPUT: 100 W RMS into 8 ohms (±5% V.S.W.R.)

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 8 Hz to 20 KHz ±0.4 dB 2.8 Hz to 65

KHz, +0-3 dB. NOTE: These figures are determined solely by passive filters.

INPUT SENSITIVITY: 1 VRMS into 100 W output.

HUM: -100dB below full output (flat).

NOISE: 116 dB below full output (flat, 20 KHz bandwidth).

2nd HARMONIC DISTORTION: <0.01% at 1 KHz (0.0007% on Prototypes) at 100 W output using a ±5% V.S.W.R. rated at 4A continues <0.003% at 10 KHz and 100 W

3rd HARMONIC DISTORTION: <0.003% for all frequencies less than 10 KHz and all powers below

clipping.

TOTAL HARMONIC DISTORTION: Determined by 2nd Harmonic Distortion (see above).

INTERMODULATION DISTORTION: 0.003% at 100 W (50 Hz and 7 KHz mixed 4:1).

STABILITY: Unconditional.

Cat. K44771

Normally \$319, **\$299**

packing and post \$10



## PREAMPLIFIER

THE ADVANTAGES OF BUYING A "ROD IRVING ELECTRONICS" SERIES 5000 PREAMPLIFIER KIT ARE:

- ★ 1% Metal Film Resistors are supplied.
- ★ 14 Metres of Low Capacitance Shielded Cable are supplied (a bit extra in case of mistakes).
- ★ English "Lorlin" switches are supplied (no substitutes here).
- ★ Specially imported black anodised aluminium knobs.

Available Assembled and Tested. (We believe that dollar for dollar there is not a commercial unit available that sounds as good.)

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: High-level input: 15 Hz-130 KHz, +0. -1 dB Low Level input - conforms to RIAA equalisation, ±0.2 dB.

DISTORTION: 1 KHz <0.003% on all inputs (limit of resolution on measuring equipment due to noise limitation).

S/N NOISE: High-Level input, master full, with respect to 300 mV input signal at full output (1 V) >92 dB flat > 100 dB A-weighted MM input, master full, with respect to full output (1 V) at 5 mV input 50 ohms source resistance connected >86 dB flat >92 dB A-weighted MC input, master full, with respect to full output (1 V) and 200 µV input signal >71 dB flat >75 dB A weighted

Cat. K44791

Normally \$289, **\$259**

PACKING AND POSTAGE \$10



## THIRD OCTAVE GRAPHIC EQUALIZER

### SPECIFICATIONS:

BANDS: 28 Bands from 31.5 Hz to 16 KHz.

NOISE: <0.008 mV, sliders at 0, gain at 0 (-102 dB0).

20 KHz BANDWIDTH DISTORTION: 0.007% at 300 mV signal, sliders at 0, gain at 0; maximum 0.01%, sliders at minimum.

FREQUENCY RESPONSE: 12 Hz-105 KHz, +0. -1 dB, all controls flat.

BOOST AND CUT: 14 dB.

Cat. K44590

1 Unit... **\$199**

2 Units... **\$379**

PACKING AND POSTAGE \$10

## SERIES 4000 SPEAKERS

8 Speakers On ..... **\$295**

8 Speakers with Crossovers ... **\$499**

Speaker Boxes (assembled with

grill and speaker cutout) ..... **\$299**

Crossover Kits ..... **\$199**

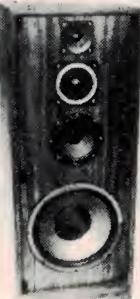
Complete Kit of parts (speakers,

crossovers, screws, innerband

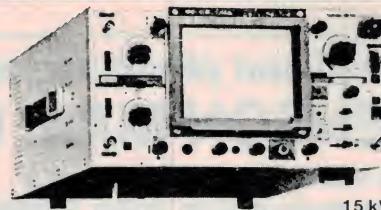
boxes) ..... **\$799**

Assembled, tested and ready

to hook up to your system ..... **\$849**



Errors and Omissions Excepted



MODEL OS-645,  
15 KV, 45 MHz, 1 mV/div.



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\$50-\$99.99	\$3.50
\$100-\$199	\$5.00
\$200-\$499	\$7.50
\$500 plus	\$10.00

Certified Post for orders over \$100 included "free"!

Registered Post for orders over \$200 included "free"!

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Public Cos., gratefully accepted.

Min. order of \$20. (or a min. \$5 accounting fee will apply.)

Comet Road Freight, Airmail etc. are extra.



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Conveniently located on the edge of the city where parking is easy! Over 4,000sq. ft. of an extensive range of products and great "in store" bargains ... for those interested in computers we have a wide range on display upstairs. For good advice and a good price, see Rod Irving Electronics.



Cat. X12010

**\$125**

SPARE FLOW SENSORS: We will be supporting this product for many years to come. To avoid problems changing cars, why not buy a spare flow sensor? They are about the only thing that wears out!

Cat. X12036

**\$29.50**

**Hi-Speed mail and phone order Australia wide ...**

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**FREE  
DELIVERY!**

- 6 months warranty on all products
- Backed by multi-million dollar Australian company
- Guarantee certificate with every product



SYSTEMS	ex tax	inc tax	APPLE, MEDFLY, LINGO and DICK SMITH'S CAT...	ex tax	inc tax	MONITORS COLOR R.G.B.	ex tax	inc tax
IBM PC Standard 64K, 1 floppy	2553	2950	IIC Printer Interface/cable	85	99	ADI PX3.51, 450x240, 12", Mono.	565	615
IBM PC mono adapt, 64K, 2x floppy	3251	3660	II/IE Printer Interface/cable, graphic	85	99	ADI PX2.43, 560x240, 12", Mono.	735	795
IBM PC color, 256K, 2x floppy.			Lingo, Medfly, Cat, printer cables	35	35	ADI PX4.31, 720x240, 12", Mono.		
Multifunct.	4095	4625	DT-100 Printer, 100CPS, graphics, etc.	285	325	switch		
LOGITEC PC color, 256K, serial, parallel, multifunction, 2x floppy	2995	3415	Logitec FT5002 Printer w/NLQ, 120cps	359	409	SEIC K140.62 350x230, 14"	865	945
UPGRADES			Color Monitor			SEIC K140.42 640x210, 14"	446	490
Multifunction OK to 256K, games port, clock, RS-232, p/lel (add \$90 ea 64K)	342	375	ADI PX3.51 450x240, 12"	565	615	SEIC K140.31 700x240, 14"	750	825
Monochrome + Printer I/Face	230	250	ADI PX2.43 560x240, 12"	735	795	ADIPX5.65, 320x560, RGB/PAL/Composite		
Color Graphics with RGB/composite	550	588	SEIC K140.42 640x210 14"	446	490	MONOCHROME MONITORS 12"		
64K Memory Pak	75	90	Mono Monitor, Gintai, H/res, Green/Amber	179	199	KF-100,V/HI-RES, 30 MHz, Amber, for IBM	265	299
Keyboard-Low Profile	225	249	Atlas 8 Disk Drive (this is the BEST)	221	245	Gintai, Hi-Res Amber, composite	170	199
DISK SYSTEM UPGRADES			ATARI ADD-ONS!			FLOPPY DISK DRIVES		
Full Height Floppy Pak-Tandon	350	390	Printer I/F Card/Cable	85	99	Atlas 8 for Apple	221	245
Half Height Floppy Pak-National	305	325	DT-100 Printer, 100CPS, graphics, etc.	285	325	National JA 561 80 Track DSDD	249	299
XT 10 MB Winchester Upgrade, internal	2274	2495	Logitec FT5002 Printer w/NLQ, 120cps	359	409	National JA 551 40 Track DSDD	232	279
Ext 10 MB Winchester Add-On, external	2600	2995	COMMODORE COMPATIBLES!			XT 800K Floppy Backup Pak w/software	451	499
XT 800K Floppy Backup Pak w/software	451	499	XETEC Printer I/Face, Cable, Graphics	109	125	w/sware		
DOT-MATRIX PRINTERS and DAISYWHEEL PRINTERS FOR IBM			DT-100 Printer, 100cps, Graphics	285	325	PRINTER CABLES for YOUR computer to match with all of OUR PRINTERS		
All our printers suitable for IBM. See separate pricing and option details.			Logitec 5002 NLQ 120cps, NLQ, Buffer	359	409	Kaypro Centronics	35	35
MONITORS-COLOR RGB (with cable)			Color Monitor ADI PX3.51 450x240, cable	565	615	Osborne "	35	35
ADI PX3.51 450x240 12"	565	615	Hi-Res Monitor & Cable, Green or Amber	179	199	IBM "	52	59
ADI PX2.43 560x240 12"	735	795	Color Monitor			Exec 616 "	35	35
ADI PX4.31 720x240 12"	865	945	ADIPX3.51 450x240, 12"	565	615	Dick Smith's Cat	35	35
SEIC K140.42 640x210 14"	750	825	ADI PX2.43 560x240, 12"	735	795	Lingo Centronics	35	35
SEIC K140.31 700x240 14"	875	995	SEIC K140.62 350x230, 14"	446	490	Medfly "	35	35
MONITORS-MONOCHROME 12" (with cable)			SEIC K140.42 640x210 14"	750	825	Microbee	45	45
KF-100 Very Hi-Res 30 MHz, Amber.			Color Monitor Cable for above monitors	25	25	Hitachi Peach	35	35
TTL	265	299	TANDY TERRIFIC BARGAINS!			Apple I/Face + Cable	85	99
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composite			Model III Printer Cable	35	35	Commodore I/Face + Cable, XETEC the best!		
IBM Software			DT-100 Printer, 100cps, graphics	285	325	Tandy Color Computer I/Face + Cable	35	35
Flight Simulator	69		Logitec FT5002 Printer w/NLQ, 120cps	359	409	Tandy Model III Centronics	35	35
KnowledgeGeman	640		Color Computer Cable + I/face	85	99	DISKETTES		
DBase III			DOT-MATRIX PRINTERS			Double Sided/Double Density 96TPI	50	55
Supercalc 3	365		BX-80 80cps, 11 pitch, graph, frict/tract	275	295	Single Sided/Double Density	26	29
Open Access	675		DT-100/DP-100 100cps, download chars, true bit graphics, frict/tract	285	325	SOFTWARE PACKAGES for:		
Lotus 123	569		Logitec FT5002 Printer w/NLQ 120cps, buffer, true bit graph, Dload chrs, fric/trac	359	409	-IBM, Logitec, Executive 816		
Symphony	855		Ribbon-BX-80/DT-100/DP-100	10	11	Video Shop System	1500	
Copywrite	91		Ribbon-FT5002	9	10	Insurance Brokers System	1500	
Disk Explorer	120		Printer Stand-smoked plexiglass	31	31	Agricultural		
Disk Mechanic	109		DAISY-WHEEL PRINTERS (QUME Comp.)			Dairy Analysis Management, town supply		
Zero-Disk-XT	121		Letterwriter SP2000 20CPS, Bi-direc.	720	795	Gross Margins-Cattle Breeding	250	
Diskette Manager II	170		Cut Sheet Feeder	499	575	Crops	180	
Dos-Shell-XT	115		Tractor Feeder-Bi-Directional	139	149	Sheep-Breeding reps.	240	
Ramspool	102		RS-232 Serial Interface	109	125	Sheep-buying reps.	240	
Keyswap	194		Printwheels-QUME/DIABLO compatible	18	18	Production Recording System	380	
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EXEC 816 Desktop 1.6MB w/12"								
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EXEC 810 Desktop 10MB w/12"	4898	5555						
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# Honeywell claims record for IC density

**A**mong the latest chips to be successfully fabricated under Phase 1 of the Very High-Speed Integrated Circuits program initiated by the US military are two from Honeywell. The program director, Dallas D. Burns, bills them as "the most complex bipolar chips ever built."

The Honeywell sequencer and arithmetic chips — part of a three-chip set to be used on an electro-optic signal-processing brassboard, integrate 136 000 and 121 000 devices, respectively. Both chips were fabricated using 10:1 direct-step-on-wafer technology. This involved all-dry etching in an oxide-isolated integrated-Schottky-logic process. It features 1.25 µm minimum geometries and three levels

of metal.

Notably, fully functional arithmetic chips were produced on the first silicon pass in June, says Burns, while the sequencer chip required only metal mask modifications after the first run. The third chip in the set, known as the parallel pipeline processor, will mix ISL and current-mode logic on the same chip and will integrate 142 000 devices. It is scheduled to complete its second

pass in silicon during September. As with the sequencer, only minor metal errors were found after the first silicon pass; Honeywell says these can be fixed by changes on only the last two of the 15 or so masks used to fabricate the chip.

All three chips were designed using a library of 43 macrocells, some of which contain as many as 2000 gates. The majority of these cells contains between 200 and 600 gates, however. Tape automated bonding is used to mount each chip in a ceramic 180-pin array package.

## Optical-fibre components

**M**itsubishi Electric has launched a range of fibre optic devices claimed to be at the forefront of fibre optic technology.

It covers practically the full range of optoelectronic components which are necessary for optical fibre communication systems.

The range includes light-emitting and receiving modules which contain light-emitting diodes, laser diodes and photodiodes, components for optical coupling, optical multiplexing, and optical transmission line changeover, as well as optical transmitter/receiver modules which transmit digital signals with optical fibres.

Mitsubishi Electric in Japan has been at the forefront of this relatively new technology. In fact, the company claims to be the first to recognise the capabilities of light communications and the benefits it can offer in our information intensive society. In recent times it has developed surface inspection equipment for pipes using laser techniques and optical fibres. It scans the pipe material using a linear pipe-transport mechanism without rotating the pipe. This unusual capability makes it pos-

sible, for the first time, to incorporate into production lines a scanning device for fine defects in materials with uniform surfaces.

Other research work has culminated in the release of fibre-

optic sensors and a range of measuring instruments that incorporate these devices.

For further information contact Mitsubishi Electric Australia Pty Ltd, 73 Epping Road, North Ryde NSW 2113.



## IC sockets

**M**olex has released a range of IC sockets known as the Molex M41000 Series.

Designed primarily to house and protect fragile IC leads as well as providing a simple means of replacing faulty ICs or changing ROMs and PROMs whose key functions are likely to be altered, the Molex sockets are supplied in a self-delivery tube and are compatible with most automatic insertion machines.

A special feature of the new Molex sockets is the housing sidewall which guides and orients the IC leads during insertion. Terminals are phosphor bronze, finished in tin/lead with a 0.005 mm minimum thickness.

The sockets, which are stackable side-by-side or end-on-end on 2.54 mm centres, meet performance standards of both MIL 83734-D and EIA standard RS415-A Class II and have built-in flux standoffs.

To cover the full range of applications, Molex has made the M41000 series IC sockets available for 8, 14, 16, 18, 20, 24, 28 and 40 pins.

For more information contact Utilux, 74 Commercial Road, Kingsgrove NSW 2208. (02)50-0155.

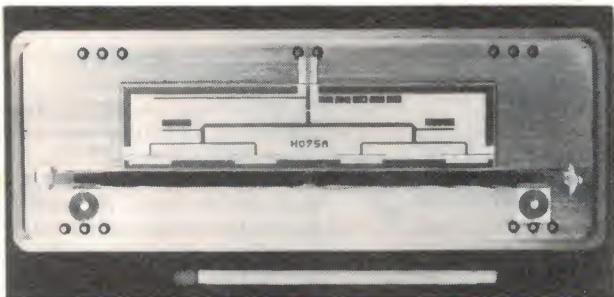
## DAC applications

**S**ydney based Parameters has a supply of DAC application notes from Analog Devices Inc. of the USA.

Specific topics of discussion include single-supply operation of CMOS D/A converters in the voltage-switching or current-switching mode of operation, selection of amplifiers for single +5 V supply operation and interfacing single +5 V supply D/A converters to microprocessors.

The application note details the design of an X-Y plotter interface using two dual-convertisers and a single 8-bit D/A converter. A useful chart of popular op amps detailing their expected performance when used with CMOS D/A converters in single +5 V applications is also included.

For more information contact Parameters Pty Ltd, 41 Herbert St, Artarmon 2064. (02)439-3288.



Pure maths. A surface wave convolver from Siemens with a match-stick for comparison.

## Surface wave maths

A passive component for fast analogue Arithmetic operations has been developed by researchers at Siemens and should be commercially available in a year or two.

For interference-free communication in special networks, band-spreading techniques are being increasingly used. Bandwidth can be extended by additional modulation of the signal. This considerably improves transmission reliability.

In this type of transmission system, high-speed arithmetic is necessary to filter out the weak, highly redundant encoded signal from the background noise and interference.

Siemens has developed surface-wave 'convolvers' that realise this function. Convolution is a mathematical operation that performs time-displacement of a signal, multiplication by a reference signal and subsequent integration. Convolvers essentially

## Energy Pak batteries

Australian Security Electronics has been appointed Australian agents for 'Energy Pak' sealed lead acid batteries.

ASE is looking for distributors of its six and 12 volt batteries, which come in various sizes between 1.2 Ah and 6 Ah.

Contact W. J. Sheehan at P.O. Box 118, Paddington NSW 2021. (02)331-5142.



consist of an acoustic delay line, of which the received signal and reference signal run counter to each other.

The acoustic power density is increased with the aid of focusing structures, so that via the non-linear polarisation of the substrate crystal (lithium nobate) the product of the two signals is formed. The convolution signal is tapped off by a spatially integrating electrode along the path. Surface-wave

convolvers that are able to correlate signals with 100 MHz bandwidth and 10 µs duration afford a signal processing capacity corresponding to  $10^{11}$  multiplications per second.

Future applications of the convolver will also lie in the field of extremely high-speed analogue signal correlation for pattern recognition and image processing tasks.

For more information contact Siemens, 544 Church St, Richmond Vic 3121. (03)429-7111.

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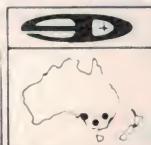


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# MINDMASTER

Human-computer link

Peter Ihnat



There are times when computer buffs require a different type of control to that provided by simple game controllers or joysticks.

A LOST WARRIOR left roaming the dark humid jungle of twisted metal, stone and cement once the great city of Dunedoo (a long time in the future, of course!) rests momentarily against a huge concrete pillar. Within a fraction of a picosecond (i.e.: very quickly) the dreaded aliens intent on finding the location of earth's secret headquarters stun our hero with their discharges . . . err . . . capacitor-discharge guns. As he comes to they apply the dreaded BRAIN BLASTER (modified ETI Mindmaster) to his head and connect the Apple II +++++ to analyse his thought processes . . . WHAT?? A bit far-fetched you say? Well, maybe, but if you let your imagination go for a moment or two, the current project conjures up futuristic images. The ETI-683 Mindmaster was developed as a unit which provides control of a computer by using the mind. In actual fact, the control is indirect. The Mindmaster operates by

monitoring certain body processes and it is these which are controlled by the mind. Those into the subject will immediately recognise this as BIOFEEDBACK — the process of obtaining visual (or aural) indication of the operation of a body function and then trying to bring it under conscious con-

trol. ETI covered the subject several years ago with a general article and three projects. These were:

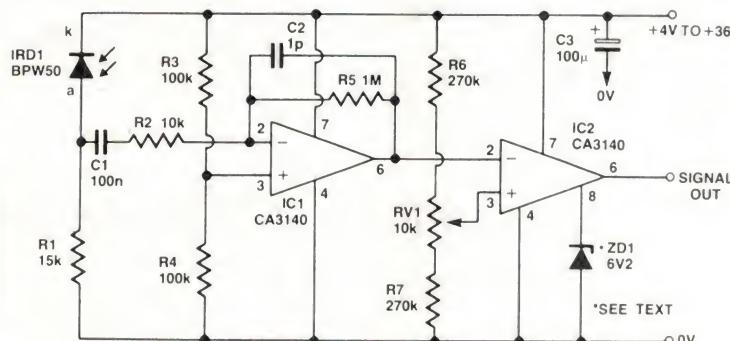
Biofeedback — instant yoga?	Sept. 76
ETI-576 Electromyogram	Sept. 79
ETI-544 Heart rate monitor	Sept. 76
ETI-546 GSR monitor	Mar. 77

Internal functions which can be monitored include muscular activity, skin temperature, skin resistance, heart rate and brain waves. The easiest to monitor is probably skin resistance and since the GSR (Galvanic Skin Response) monitor already performs this function, I used it as the basis for the Mindmaster.

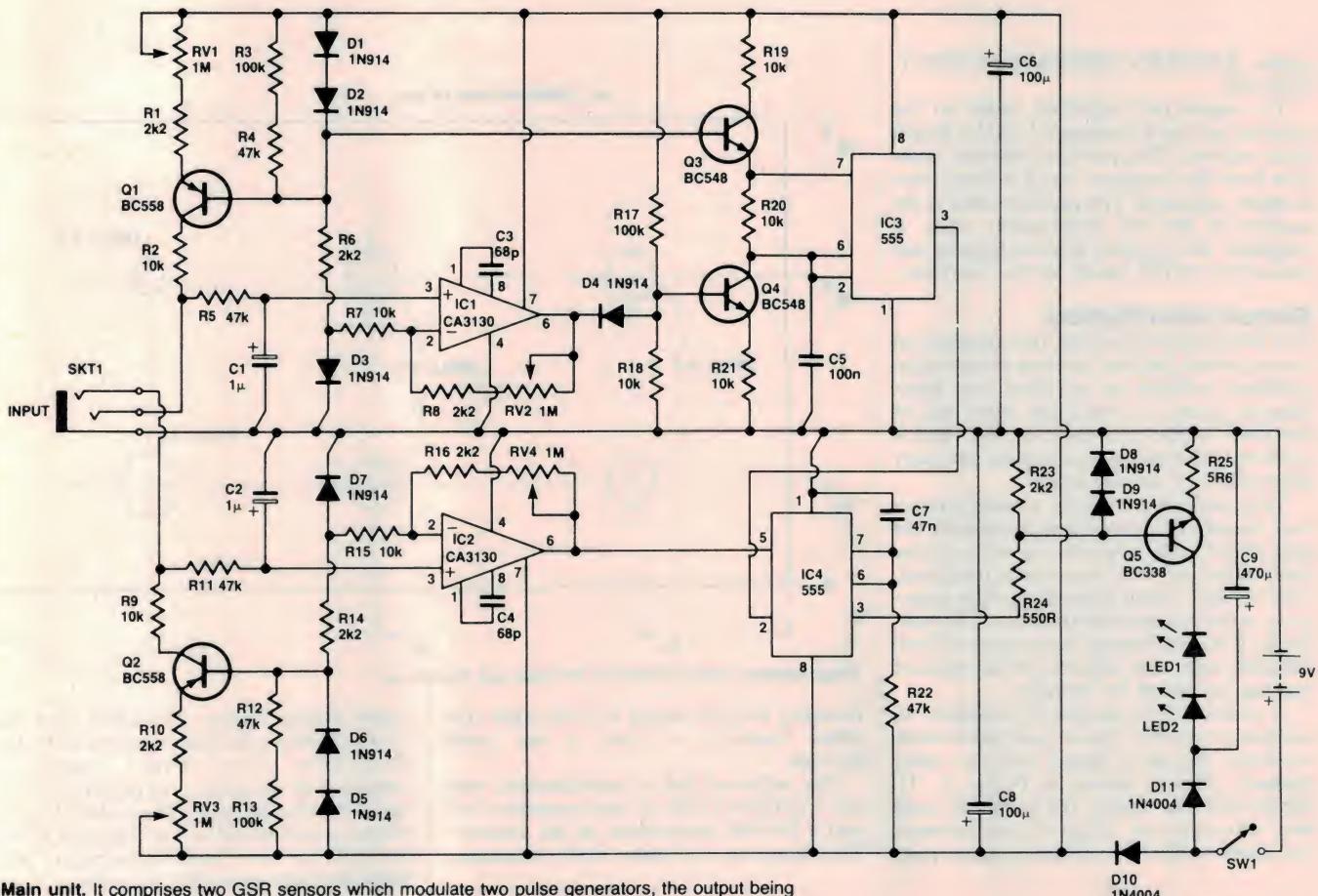
The range of applications for the Mindmaster includes hands free computer control, stress monitoring, relaxation aid, 'lie detector', etc. Each application will require its own type of probes and so this part will be left up to individual constructors. Some suggestions though, a headband with metal probes attached can be used for biofeedback applications; for faster control, a couple of metal rods held in the hands can be squeezed and released to appear like pressure sensors; metal probes can be taped to the fingers for lie detection — the list is endless.

#### Safety requirements

The Mindmaster is comprised of two units. The larger unit contains the sensor and transmitter electronics and must be powered by batteries. This is a safety requirement — under NO circumstances should the unit be powered by any mains operated power supply, no matter how safe it may appear. This is to eliminate any possibility of mains leakage or a power supply fault passing lethal currents through the body (we like to keep our readers). So once



**Receiver.**  
ZD1 is only used if the supply is over 5 V.



**Main unit.** It comprises two GSR sensors which modulate two pulse generators, the output being transmitted to the receiver on an infrared beam.

## HOW IT WORKS — ETI-683

### Mindmaster receiver unit

The encoded Infra-red signal from the main unit is detected by IRD1, an infrared photodiode. The signal appears as a pulsed voltage across R1. This is fed into the inverting input of IC1 which amplifies the signal by a factor of 100 (actual gain =  $-(R5/R2)$ ). To eliminate high frequency oscillations, capacitor C2 is placed in the feedback loop. Its value of 1pF is nominal and may have to be adjusted if your circuit is unstable. Use the lowest value which will stop oscillations without affecting the signal.

The final stage is a comparator which squares up the received signal and converts it to correct TTL levels. It compares the signal to a fixed dc level set by the voltage divider formed by R6, R7 and RV1. If the signal is below this voltage, the output of IC2 will be high; if the signal is above the voltage, the output will be low. Zener diode ZD1 is only used when the supply voltage is greater than 5 volts. It clamps the output voltage to 5 volts so as not to exceed TTL levels. The output voltage when clamped is:

$$V_{\text{zener}} = 1.2 \text{ V} \quad (\text{2 diode voltage drops inside IC2})$$

and equals 5 volts in the present case.

### Mindmaster main unit

As explained in the general text, this project is based on the ETI-546 GSR Monitor. Its analogue section is duplicated to provide the two front ends required for the Mindmaster. Since both are identical, I'll only describe the operation of one.

The basic idea behind the operation of the probes is to pass a constant current between them (i.e. between either probe and the 0 volt probe). This produces a voltage which is proportional to skin resistance (remember Ohms Law!!) which is fed to the input of IC1 (or IC2 for channel 2). The op-amp amplifies the voltage with reference to the 0.6 volt drop across D3 (D4) and the gain can be varied with RV2 (RV4).

But since skin resistance can vary over a large range, the actual value of current sent through the probes must also be adjustable to provide greater flexibility. This is provided by RV1 (RV2) which give a coarse level control. If for any reason a fine level control is also required, simply replace R4 (and R12) with 47K linear pots. In this case, connect the wiper to the transistor base, the "minimum" end of travel to R3 (R13) and the other end to the junction of D2 and R6 (D6 and R14). The original GSR monitor includes this control but it isn't really necessary in the present case.

The next section is the modulation circuitry

which performs the analogue to pulse train conversion. While reading the following description, keep in the back of your ... err ... MIND (sorry for that) that one signal needs to frequency modulate an oscillator and the other should pulse width modulate this FM signal as mentioned in the general text. IC3 performs the frequency modulation. Its output is fed to IC4 which is connected as a monostable whose pulse width is varied by the output of IC2 (using the 555 timer's control input).

The frequency modulation process may not appear obvious. It is built around IC3 which is a 555 timer astable circuit. Q2 provides a constant current of about  $60\mu\text{A}$  to C5 (just think of Q3 and R19 as a resistor in the standard 555 astable setup). Q4 and associated components actually "rob" the capacitor of some of its current under the control of IC1. This has the effect of lowering the astable's frequency of oscillation, exactly what we require.

The final section of the main unit is the Infra-red transmitter. This is simply a transistor which switches the current to the Infra-red LEDs between two values — zero and approximately 100 mA. Diodes D10, 11 and capacitor C9 decouple the higher-current transmitting section from the lower-current sensor section.

# Project 683

again, BATTERY OPERATION ONLY,  
PLEASE.

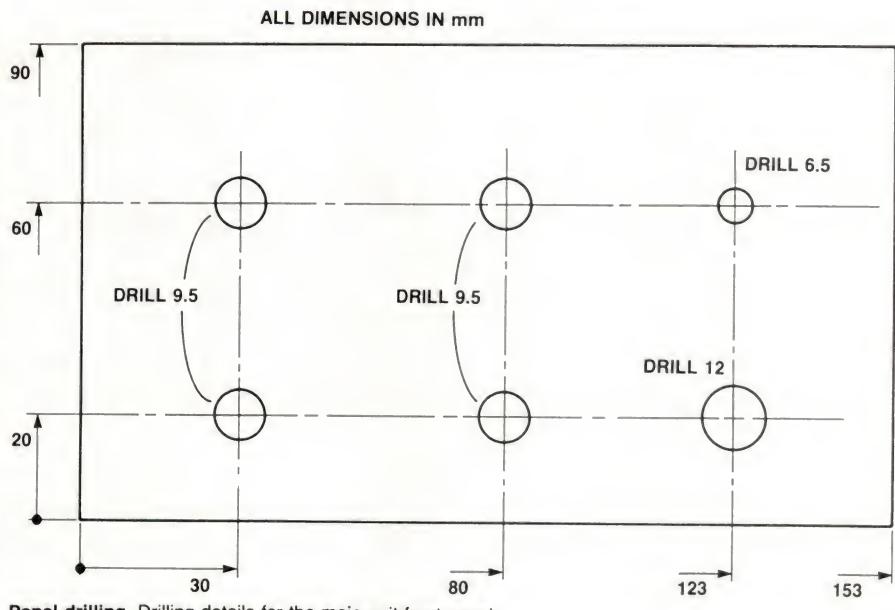
To couple the amplified signal to the receiver unit and computer I used a simple infra-red link. This provides absolute isolation from the computer which in most cases is mains operated. The receiver itself is the smaller of the two Mindmaster units. It amplifies the received infra-red signal and converts it to TTL levels for the computer.

## Circuit description

The Mindmaster provides two channels of control which implies that two independent analogue sections are required (see block diagram figure 1). I used the 'front end' of the GSR monitor for each section since it performs the exact job we require and, very importantly, it already works.

Very basically, it passes a constant current through the body (more specifically the part of the body immediately between the probes) and amplifies the voltage produced. This voltage, which depends on skin resistance, is the required control signal. The difficulty is how to encode the outputs of both channels onto one infra-red beam without making the circuit too complex.

A solution is to frequency modulate an oscillator with one channel and pulse width modulate the same signal with the other channel. This is shown in Figure 2. To demodulate the signals, the computer need only determine the length of time between the starts of the two adjacent pulses (one



Panel drilling. Drilling details for the main unit front panel.

channel) and the length of each pulse (the other channel) — tasks it can easily perform.

The infra-red link is implemented with two CQY89A LEDs at the transmitter end and a BPW50 photodiode in the receiver. The frequency and pulse width modulated

signal simply flashes the LEDs and the resultant infra-red beam is received by the photo-diode. The diode's output is amplified by an op-amp to produce a TTL signal for the computer. The rest of the processing is performed by the computer which can scale the two channel readings to produce the range of control required.

The processing however doesn't stop there. If your computer supports graphics or better still, colour graphics, then the possibilities are truly endless. Imagine monitoring your level of stress by watching colour changes on the screen or having two people trying to 'pull' a spot of colour across to their side of the screen using probes attached to their heads.

## Construction-main unit

Construction should present few problems if care is taken. Assemble in the following order — wire links, resistors, diodes, capacitors, transistors and ICs. IC sockets are not required unless you have doubts about your soldering ability. As always, check the orientation of all polarised components (electros and semiconductors). The only part to watch on the main board is the connection of R4 and R12 and their corresponding wire links. Mount the resistors upright so that the adjacent wire link can be soldered to one of the legs. As explained in the How-it-works, the original GSR Monitor used a fine level control which is not required in this project and so is replaced by the components just mentioned.

I mounted the circuit board in a standard 150 x 90 x 50 mm zippy box available from most electronic suppliers. The lid holds the controls, input socket and power switch. To drill the appropriate holes use the front panel artwork as a template and mark the hole centres. After drilling, carefully stick

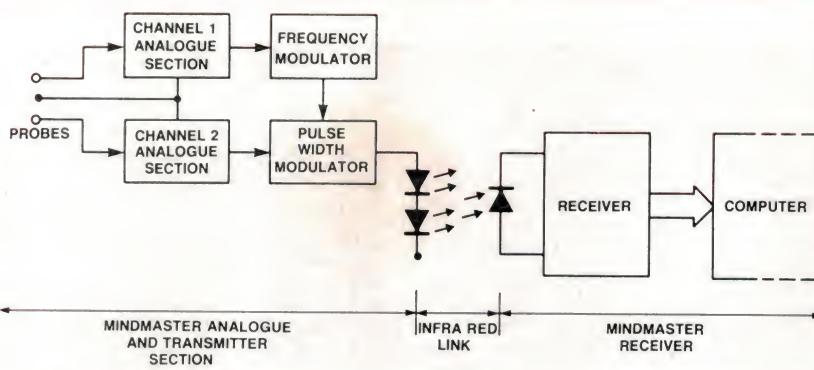


Figure 1. Mindmaster Block diagram.

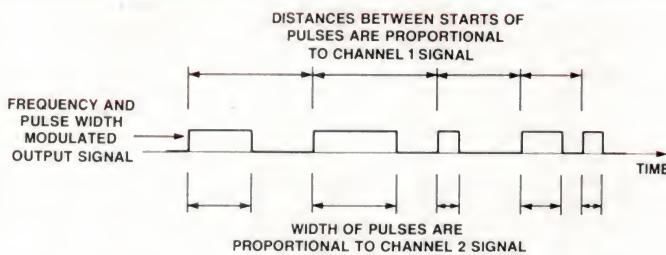


Figure 2. Details of Mindmaster's composite output signal.

## PARTS LIST — ETI 683 Mindmaster main unit

### Resistors.....(all 1/4W 5%)

R1, R6, R8, R10,  
R14, R16, R23.....2k2

R2, R7, R9, R15,  
R19, R20, R21.....10k

R3, R13, R17,

R18.....100k

R4, R5, R11, R12,

R22.....47k

R24.....500R

R25.....470R

RV1-RV4.....1M log pot

### Capacitors

C1, C2.....1μ , tant. tag

C3, C4.....68p , ceramic

C5.....100n polyester

C6, C8.....100μ , 16V electro (pc mount)

C7.....47n polyester

C9.....470μ , 16V electro (pc mount)

### Semiconductors

D1-D9.....1N914 diode

D10, D11.....1N4004

LED1, LED2.....CQY89A infra-red LED

IC1, IC2.....CA3130 op-amp

IC3, IC4.....555 timer

Q1, Q2.....BC557, or similar

Q3, Q4.....BC547, or similar

Q5.....BC338 transistor

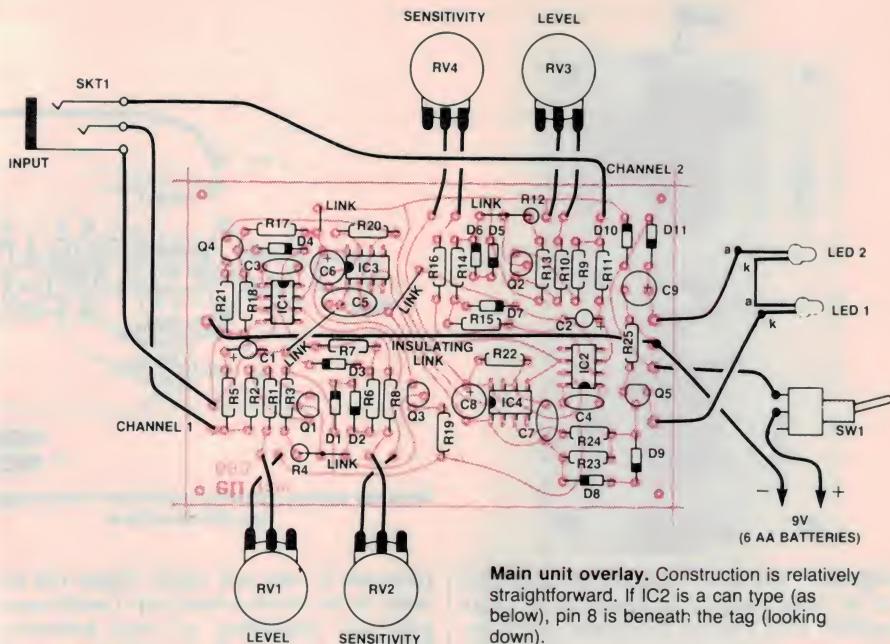
### Miscellaneous

SKT1.....stereo 6.5mm socket

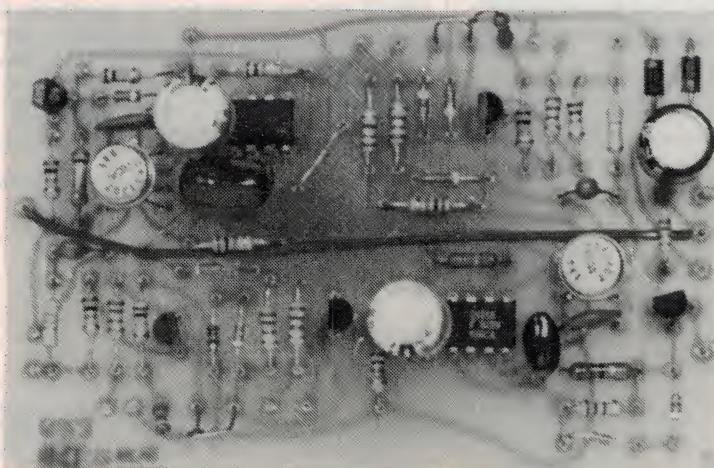
PL1.....stereo 6.5mm plug

SW1.....SPST sub-miniature toggle switch

ETI-683 trans pc board and Scotchcal label; 150 x 90 x 50 mm zippy box; 4 knobs; 6 aa battery holder; 9 V battery clip; hookup wire, nuts, bolts, etc.



Main unit overlay. Construction is relatively straightforward. If IC2 is a can type (as below), pin 8 is beneath the tag (looking down).



the Scotchcal label into place and mount the front panel controls. These can now be wired back to the pc board with standard hookup wire (refer to the wiring diagram).

Drill two 5 mm holes in one end of the plastic case and push the IR LEDs into place. A touch of glue may help here. Wire them to the pc board but, as mentioned before, check their orientation first. This completes construction of the main unit.

### Construction — receiver

The Mindmaster receiver is the smaller of the two units and also the simplest to assemble. Once again, use the recommended pc board and take the usual precautions when mounting components. The BPW50 photodiode should be mounted last and its orientation carefully checked. The component drawings included with the wiring diagram should be referred to. When the photodiode is correctly mounted, its sensitive area is the side facing AWAY from the board.

Any type of case can be used to house the electronics. For the prototype I used an 83 x 54 x 28 mm zippy box but a 130 x 68 x

41 mm may be more suitable for your particular application. This will depend on whether or not your computer outputs a dc supply voltage for powering peripheral devices. If it doesn't then the larger box is required so that a 9 volt battery can be incorporated. Since the prototype Mindmaster was intended for the lab Microbee, there was no problem. The Microbee has a 5 volt dc output which I used to power the receiver.

Zener diode ZD1 is required only if a supply voltage of more than 5 volts is used. Its function is to clamp the output voltage to a maximum of 5 volts. This is to provide correct TTL levels for the computer input. The zener is not required if the receiver is powered from a 5 volt supply such as the Microbee's dc output.

After selecting a suitable case, drill a 5 mm hole in one end and four 3 mm holes in the bottom. Next, mount the board on 4 bolts and space it off the bottom by the thickness of two nuts. It should now be possible to bend the legs of the photodiode slightly to position its sensitive side flush

## PARTS LIST — ETI-683 Mindmaster receiver unit

### Resistors.....(all 1/4W 5%)

R1.....15k

R2.....10k

R3, R4.....100k

R5.....1M

R6, R7.....270k

RV1.....10k trimpot

### Capacitors

C1.....100n polyester

C2.....1p ceramic

C3.....100μ electro

### Semiconductors

IC1, IC2.....CA3140

IRD1.....BPW50 photodiode

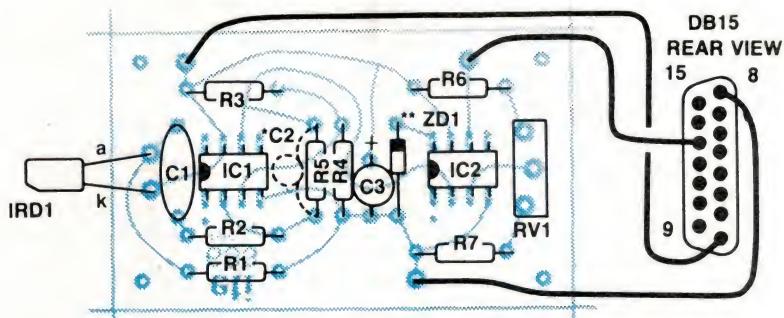
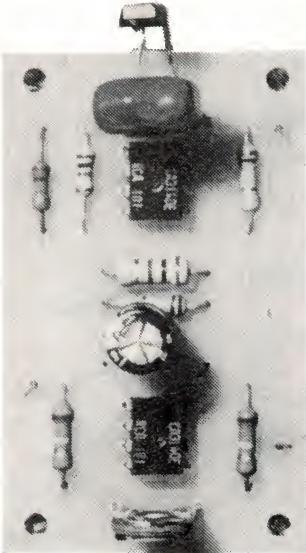
ZD1.....6V2, 1W zener (not required for microbee — see text)

### Miscellaneous

ETI-683rec pc board; Scotchcal label; 83 x 54 x 28 mm zippy box (see text); nuts, bolts, etc.

Price estimate

\$30 — \$35



**Receiver overlay.** Showing construction and wiring of the receiver unit. The sensitive side of IRD1 is the non-chamfered face.

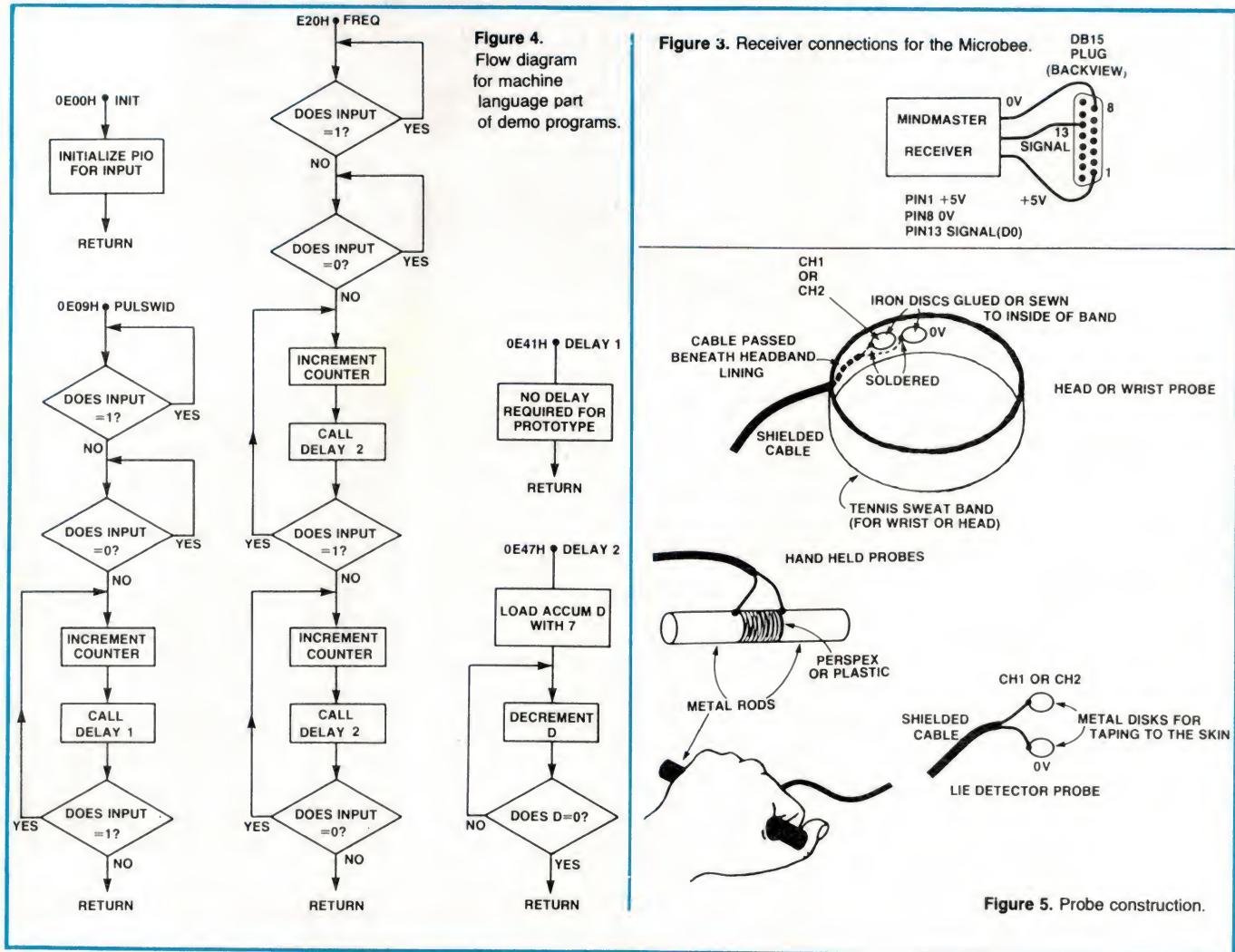
with the 5 mm hole. If during the operation of the Mindmaster it becomes obvious that ambient light reduces the overall sensitivity then glue a piece of Kodak Wratten 89C filter between the hole and the photodiode. This filter passes infrared light and attenuates the amount of visible light.

Having established the receiver's power supply, the final connections to the com-

puter are 0 volts and signal. These can be made to the parallel input port (serial input port etc, depending on your particular machine). Connect the 0 volt line to signal ground and the signal line to one of the 8 data input connections. For simplicity, use the least significant bit, D0. Figure 3 shows the connection for a Microbee. For other computers, refer to the user's manual for

the appropriate pin connections. Note that no plug has been specified in the parts list. Just buy the one which matches your computer.

Trimpot RV1 in the receiver should be adjusted to half way. It shouldn't need further adjustment unless the receiver is a bit far from the transmitter and noise pickup needs to be reduced.



## PROGRAM LISTINGS

```

ORG 0E00
;INITIALISE PIO
0E00 TE CF LD A,0CFH ;SET FOR CONTROL
0E02 D3 01 OUT (1),A
0E04 JE FF LD A,B0 ;DDR 11111111
0E06 D3 01 OUT (1),A
0E08 C9 RET ;return

;DETERMINE PULSE WIDTH
0E09 DB 00 FULSWID IN A,(0) ;GET THE INPUT
0E0B CB 47 BIT 0,A ;TEST LS BIT
0E0D 30 FA JR NZ,FULSWID ;LOOP IF = 1
0E0F DB 00 LOOP1 IN A,(0) ;GET INPUT AND
0E11 CB 47 BIT 0,A ;TEST IF = 0
0E13 28 FA JR Z,LOOP1 ;LOOP IF YES
0E15 DB 00 LOOP2 IN A,(0) ;VALID INPUT
0E17 OC INC C ;INCREMENT COUNTER
0E19 CD 41 BE CALL DELAY1 ;INPUT STILL THERE?
0E1B CB 47 BIT 0,A ;YES, SO LOOP AGAIN
0E1D 28 F6 JR NZ,LOOP2
0E1F C9 RET

;DETERMINE PERIOD
0E20 DB 00 FREQ IN A,(0) ;THIS SECTION IS
0E22 CB 47 BIT 0,A ;THE SAME AS THAT
0E24 20 FA JR NZ,FREQ ;FOR FULSWID
0E26 DB 00 LOOP3 IN A,(0)
0E28 CB 47 BIT 0,A
0E2A 28 FA JR Z,LOOP3
0E2C DR 00 LOOP4 IN A,(0)
0E2E OC INC C ;INCREMENT COUNTER
0E2F CD 47 BE CALL DELAY2 ;CALL DELAY2
0E32 CB 47 BIT 0,A
0E34 20 F6 JR NZ,LOOP4 ;UNTIL NEXT PULSE
0E36 DB 00 LOOPS5 IN A,(0)
0E38 OC INC C ;APPEARS
0E39 CD 47 BE CALL DELAY2
0E3C CB 47 BIT 0,A
0E3E 28 F6 JR Z,LOOPS5
0E40 C9 RET ;RETURN

;DELAY1 SUBROUTINE
0E41 C9 DELAY1 RET ;DELAY NOT REQUIRED
0E42 00 NOP ;FOR PROTOTYPE
0E43 00 NOP
0E44 00 NOP
0E45 00 NOP
0E46 00 NOP

;DELAY2 SUBROUTINE
0E47 16 07 DELAY2 LD D,7
0E49 15 LOOP6 DEC D
0E4A 20 FD JR NZ,LOOP6
0E4C C9 RET ;RETURN

```

```

00100 REM ETI-683 MINDMASTER
00110 REM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM No 1
00120 CLS:HIRE
00130 GOSUB 230: REM INITIALISE PIO
00140 K=0: L=0
00150 FOR I=1 TO 10: REM GET AVERAGE OF 10 READINGS
00160 K=K + USR(3593)
00170 L=L + USR(3616)
00180 NEXT I
00190 K=K / 10
00200 L=L / 10
00210 PRINT K,L
00220 GOTO 140
00230 REM MACHINE CODE LOADER ROUTINE
00240 REM POKE SUBROUTINES TO 0E00H
00250 REM REFER TO LISTING GIVEN ELSEWHERE
00260 FOR A=3584 TO 3660
00270 READ B
00280 POKE A,B
00290 NEXT A
00300 DATA 62,207,211,1,62,255,211,1,201
00310 DATA 219,0,203,71,32,250,219,0,203,71,40,250,219,0
00320 DATA 12,205,65,14,203,71,32,246,201
00330 DATA 219,0,203,71,32,250,219,0,203,71,40,250,219,0
00340 DATA 12,205,71,14,203,71,32,246,219,0,12,205,71,14
00350 DATA 203,71,40,246,201
00360 DATA 201,0,0,0,0
00370 DATA 22,7,21,32,253,201
00380 REM INITIALISE PIO
00390 X = USR(3584)
00400 RETURN

00100 REM ETI-683 MINDMASTER
00110 REM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM No 2
00120 CLS:HIRE
00130 SET 0,0
00140 P=0: Q=0
00150 GOSUB 270: REM INITIALISE PIO
00160 K=0: L=0
00170 FOR I=1 TO 10: REM GET AVERAGE OF 10 READINGS
00180 K=K + USR(3593)
00190 L=L + USR(3616)
00200 NEXT I
00210 K=K / 10
00220 L=L / 10
00230 RESET P,Q: REM RESET PREVIOUSLY PLOTTED POINT
00240 SET K,L: REM PLOT POINT IN HIRE
00250 P=K: Q=L: REMEMBER CURRENT POINT
00260 GOTO 160
00270 REM MACHINE CODE LOADER ROUTINE
00280 REM POKE SUBROUTINES TO 0E00H
00290 REM REFER TO LISTING GIVEN ELSEWHERE
00300 FOR A=3584 TO 3660
00310 READ B
00320 POKE A,B
00330 NEXT A
00340 DATA 62,207,211,1,62,255,211,1,201
00350 DATA 219,0,203,71,32,250,219,0,203,71,40,250,219,0
00360 DATA 12,205,65,14,203,71,32,246,201
00370 DATA 219,0,203,71,32,250,219,0,203,71,40,250,219,0
00380 DATA 12,205,71,14,203,71,32,246,219,0,12,205,71,14
00390 DATA 203,71,40,246,201
00400 DATA 201,0,0,0,0
00410 DATA 22,7,21,32,253,201
00420 REM INITIALISE PIO
00430 X = USR(3584)
00440 RETURN

```

At last, the moment of truth. Connect the 6 AA battery holder to the main unit (with batteries in it, of course), place it carefully inside and screw the lid back on. Make up a simple probe by connecting three lengths of hookup wire to a stereo 6.5 mm jack. Next, plug the receiver into your Microbee (or whatever) and enter demonstration program number 1. Note that the demo programs may have to be changed to suit your computer if it's not a Microbee. Type RUN and switch the main unit on. Set it up about 300 mm from the receiver pointing the IR LEDs towards the photodiode (of course!).

Two columns of numbers will appear on the screen unless you mis-typed the program. The numbers represent the decimal equivalent of the resistance between each probe and zero volts. Since the probe connections are open, the values displayed are the maximum available. If you now short a probe to 0 volts, the corresponding reading will drop to some low value. This is the minimum value available with the current

program. The total range of values should vary from about 1-50 to around 150-255. The absolute maximum is 255 which, if exceeded, will 'wrap around' and start from 0 again (in other words  $256 = 0$ ,  $257 = 1$ , etc). If this occurs with your system, then either the transmitter pulse is too wide or the frequency is too low. This can be fixed by changing the delays in the machine language routines.

Obviously any values read by your computer can be scaled to cover the range required for your particular application so don't worry if these differ from the range given previously.

If all is well, the Mindmaster is ready to use. I have written another simple demo program which plots a hires-point under the control of the probes. Two people can be 'wired up' to move the point in 2 dimensions. To set the controls, first attach the probes, set SENSITIVITY to minimum and advance LEVEL until a mid-range reading is produced. The rest is up to you.

### Tips

1) The flow diagram for the machine language part of the demonstration programs is shown in Figure 4. This can be modified as required.

2) Figure 5 shows some ideas for the construction of probes. For biofeedback applications, head or wrist band probes are ideal and simply require connections to metal discs which are glued to the inside of a tennis sweat band. The cable can be passed through the centre of the material to exit at some convenient point.

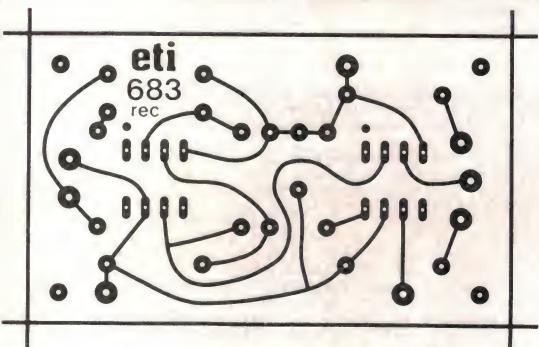
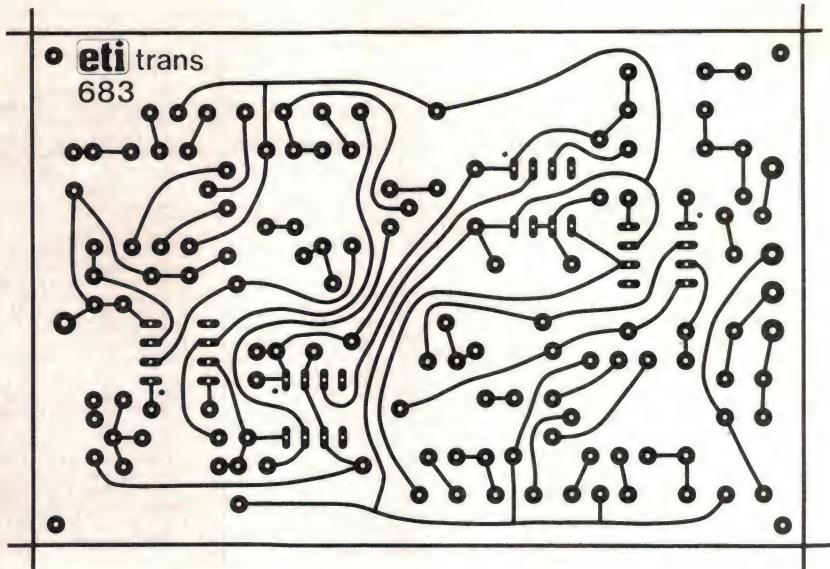
For much faster control, rod-type probes can be made. These can be hand-held and squeezed to change skin resistance. For lie detector applications, small metal discs can be taped to the arms, forehead, etc. As always, it's up to the imagination.

3) Tests on the prototype gave the following results: single channel control, one person — excellent control; two channel control, ►

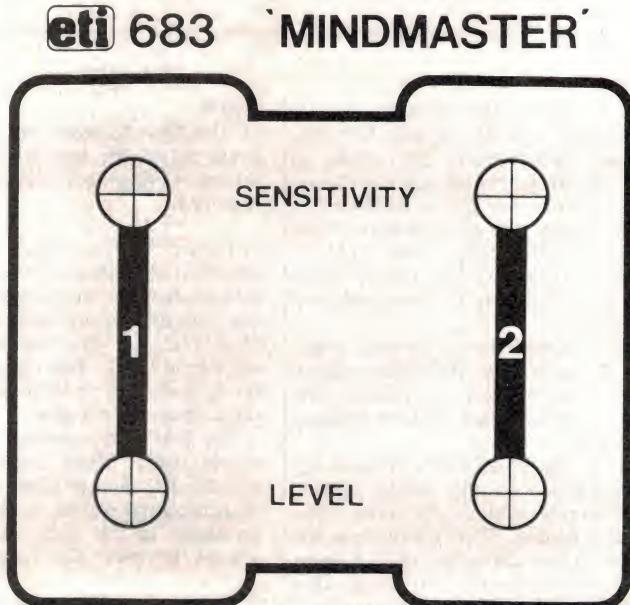
# Project 683

two people — very good control, very slight interaction between channels; two channel control, one person — very good control but much interaction. Correct adjustment of controls will reduce this (the interaction is due to the currents from each probe not being isolated from each other as they pass through the body). Two zero volt probe connections can be implemented to help reduce interaction further.

- 4) The range of the transmitter can be increased by dimming the room lights, using a piece of Kodak Wratten 89C filter in front of the photodiode, or fitting a tube in the photodiode's mounting hole to reduce ambient light pickup. Note that this requires greater alignment of transmitter and receiver.



**eti 683 'MINDMASTER'**  
receiver



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INPUT



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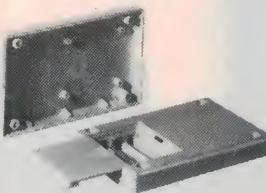
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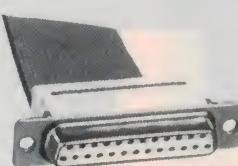
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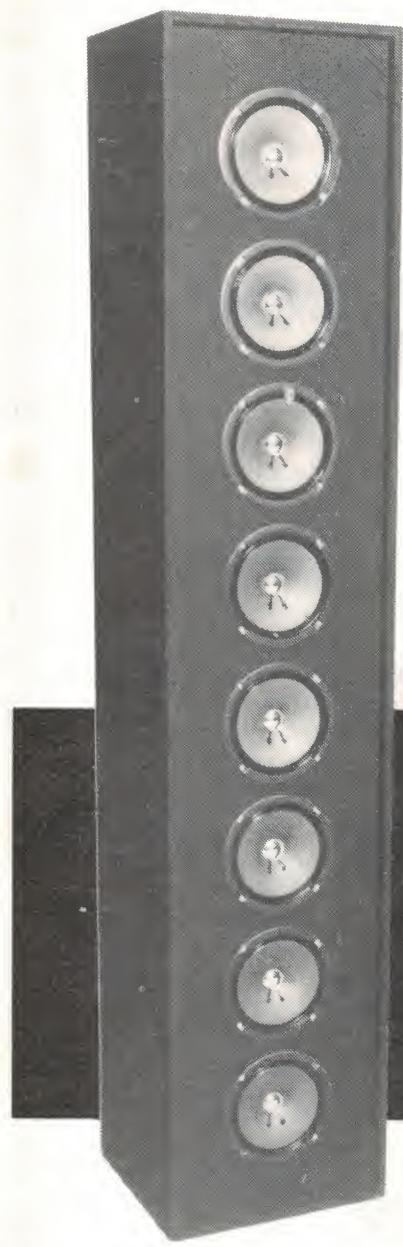
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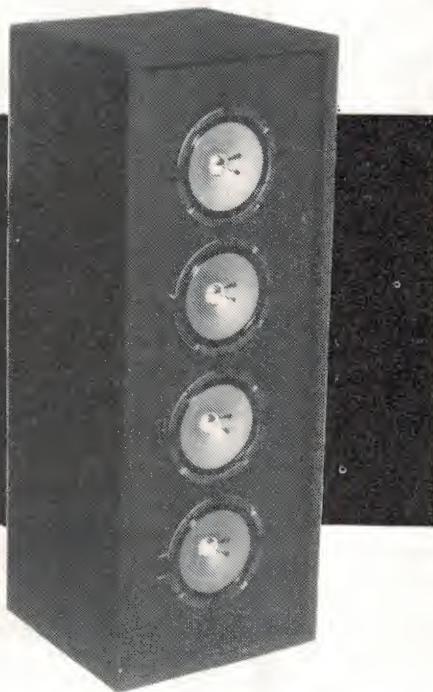
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## Low cost **COLUMN SPEAKERS** for PA systems



THE IDEA OF column speakers is not a new one. Its history dates back as far as the old RCA Photophone sound/motion picture theatre installations which first opened in 1928. In these installations, the speakers were housed in individual enclosures which were then placed on top of each other to form the column. Since then the column speaker has become the most popular form of sound reinforcement used in lecture theatres, indoor sports stadiums and meeting halls.

A column basically consists of several direct-radiator loudspeakers mounted one above the other. The purpose of this design is to confine the sound distribution pattern to a fan shaped wedge with wide horizontal and narrow vertical sound distribution. The advantage of this in an auditorium situation

is that the sound can be directed at the audience with a minimum of sound being directed at the ceiling and back wall. In halls with acoustically 'live' ceilings or walls, reflected sound waves from these surfaces can cause many problems. Reflected waves from a wall or ceiling can cause interference with the direct sound from the loudspeaker and thus cause the sound to be muffled and incoherent. Also the problem of feedback can be exaggerated when there is a large amount of reflection from a back wall. Column speakers may not completely cure these problems but they will allow anyone installing a sound reinforcement system to minimise any potential problems.

### **Column speaker design**

The aim when designing column speakers is to minimise the vertical distribution of sound from the speaker. The two main parameters which affect this are the length of the column and the distance between the individual speakers in the column. For the best performance the column should be as long as practical and the speakers mounted one above the other as close together as possible. The obvious restriction here is the longer the column, the greater the number of speakers needed, so quite often, the choice of the length of the column will be decided by how many speakers you can afford to buy. The speakers normally used are either 6" (150 mm) or 8" (225 mm) diameter. This is generally because using much bigger speakers the columns could become a little cumbersome to handle. You can imagine the size of a 16 speaker column using 12" speakers (try mounting that on your wall!).

Most column speakers are of a sealed enclosure design although there are many exceptions to this. Usually venting or porting is not required in PA column applications since porting an enclosure is done to augment the bass response of the speaker and this is not usually a critical requirement where speech amplification is concerned. The simplest columns, therefore, consist basically of a long sealed box with a number of speakers mounted in a line in the front. Starting from this basic idea, several methods of improving the directional efficiency of columns have been tried over the years.

To improve the directional properties of the column, a slight concave bend can be put in the face of the column so that all the speakers face into a focus point on the central axis of the column. This method can achieve excellent vertical compression of the response pattern but the woodwork can often be quite a problem for people without access to woodworking machinery.

A second method of improving the directional response is known as acoustical tapering. This essentially involves the use of wedges of sound absorbent material to attenuate the sound from the outer speakers. The attenuation is tapered to zero at

the centre of the column. The sound absorbent material is usually some form of fibreglass foam. This will attenuate the high frequencies coming from the speakers and the amount of attenuation is proportional to the thickness of the fibreglass. Although the woodwork is straightforward in these designs the cutting of the fibreglass into wedges can be a problem for the average handyman. Fibreglass dust can also be quite dangerous if inhaled or touched so for home constructors an alternative absorbent material should be used.

One simple method to improve the response of a column is to use a combination of single cone and twin cone drivers. Twin cone speakers have an extended high frequency range and if they are used for the central speakers in a column and single cones are used for the outer speakers the effect will be similar to that of acoustical tapering since the high frequencies will be attenuated towards the outer edges of the column. This also means that relatively cheap single cone speakers can be used as they will not need to cover any really high frequencies.

### Construction of two columns

In the design of the two columns that follow the emphasis has been on simplicity and ease of construction. Both columns can be constructed from standard size pieces of chipboard with a minimum of cuts so even those with limited woodworking tools should be able to make up the boxes without any trouble. The only specialised tool that may be needed is a jigsaw to cut out the holes for the speakers. For those not lucky enough to own one of these then perhaps it's time you looked up a few old friends that do.

The first design to be discussed will be that of a small four-speaker column. This column stands 90 cm high and has four, 6" (150 mm) speakers housed in it and is ideal ►

### PARTS LIST — 1422

#### Four-speaker column

- 4 x 6" diameter speakers (see text)
- 2 sheets of 300 mm x 900 mm chipboard, 18 mm thick (13 mm thick can be substituted)
- 2 sheets 300 mm x 1200 mm chipboard, 18 mm (or 13 mm) thick
- 2 speaker input connectors
- hookup wire, glue, nails, screws, acoustic stuffing

**Optional:** speaker grill, outdoor PVC based carpet (1 m<sup>2</sup>, see text), 8 metal corner pieces

#### Eight-speaker column

- 8 x 6" diameter speakers (see text)
- 4 sheets of 300 mm x 1850 mm chipboard, 18 mm (or 13 mm) thick
- 2 speaker input connectors
- hookup wire, glue, nails, screws, acoustic stuffing

**Optional:** as for 4 speaker column

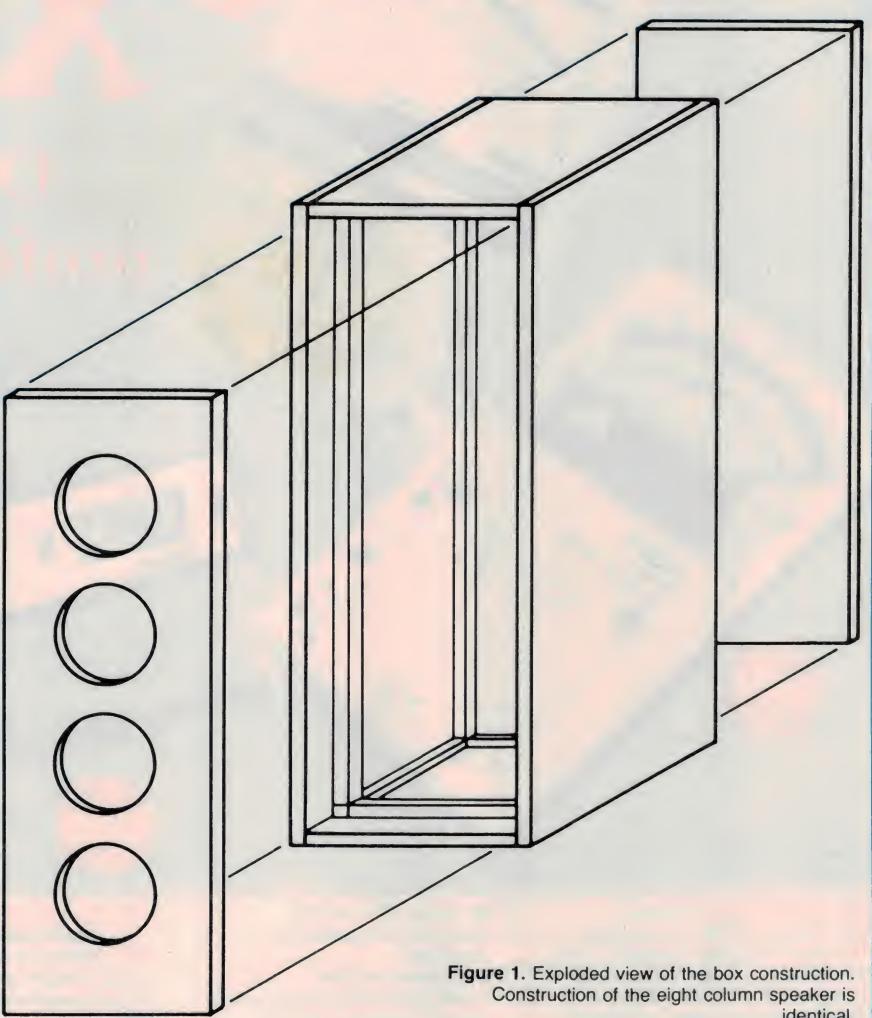


Figure 1. Exploded view of the box construction.  
Construction of the eight column speaker is identical.

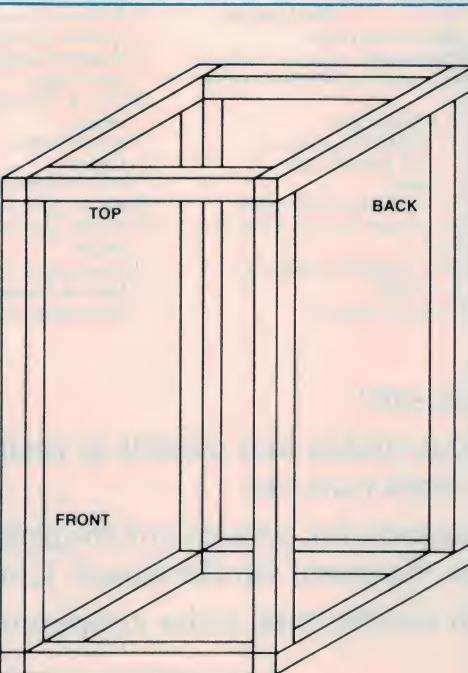


Figure 2. Diagram showing how the cleats are butted together inside the box.

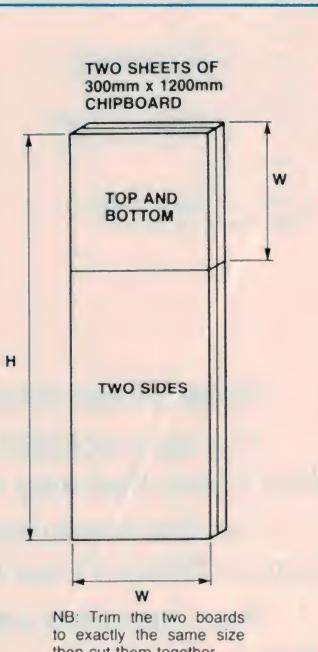


Figure 3. Cutting diagram for sides and top of column.

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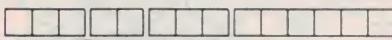
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# Project 1422

for small halls or stadiums. No part of the construction is really critical but the dimensions given will allow the box to be cut from four sheets of chipboard with a minimum of cuts. There are quite a few variations from our prototype that are mentioned. The construction article is really meant as a guideline for you to 'roll-your-own' columns to suit whatever application you have in mind.

The first thing to do is to obtain the suitable sizes of chipboard. Hardware stores should sell 1' x 3' (300 x 900 mm) and 1' x 4' (300 x 1200 mm) sheets of chipboard as standard sizes. You will need two sheets of each. The exact size will vary depending on how accurately it is cut. When buying the chipboard try to get sheets that are all the same width. Even if they are marked as 300 mm wide the exact width can vary up to 10 mm between boards. Either 13 mm or 18 mm thick chipboard can be used. The prototype was built using 18 mm thick chipboard which gives a very rigid enclosure but 13 mm could be used to give a lighter weight box.

To cut the pieces of the box there is no need to cut exactly the sizes shown in the diagram. If the pieces of chipboard that you buy are a few millimetres longer than ours don't try to trim them to the exact size, just make the box slightly longer. The main thing to watch out for is to get all the corresponding pieces the same size i.e: make sure that the two sides are the same size and that the top and bottom pieces are the same. From a 1' x 4' sheet you will be able to get one side and a top or bottom piece exactly. The 1' x 3' pieces will give you the back and front pieces. These will have to be trimmed so that the top and bottom will fit flush with the sides.

Firstly, cut the sides and top and bottom from the 1' x 4' lengths of chipboard and trim the edges so that all pieces are smooth and square. The top and bottom pieces should now be attached to one of the sides.

For strength and to seal the joint it is recommended that the joints be glued and screwed. Whenever putting screws into chipboard it is a good idea to drill pilot holes first. This stops the wood from splitting. Also, the screws should be countersunk (remember, neatness counts!). The other side should now be attached. When this is done check that the box is square. If it is slightly askew then you should push it square and temporarily nail some pieces of wood across the corners to keep it square while the glue dries. Leave the box alone until the glue hardens.

The next step is to cut and mount the cleats. These are cut from lengths of 18 mm square timber. The diagram shows the positioning of the cleats for 18 mm thick chipboard. If you are using 13 mm chipboard then you will have to adjust the dimensions by 5 mm as appropriate. The front cleats should be positioned 20 mm plus thickness of chipboard back from the front edge and the back cleats should allow the back panel to fit in flush with the sides, i.e: they should be mounted the thickness of the chipboard back from the back edge. Once again, they should be glued and screwed for strength.

With the cleats in position, the front baffle can now be cut. Firstly, trim a sheet of 1' x 3' chipboard so that it fits neatly into the front of the box. Before mounting the front baffle carefully mark out the four holes for the speakers and cut them out (this is where your jigsaw comes in handy). Try to be accurate with your hole cutting because if you cut the holes too big you might find it difficult to screw in the speakers (like we did!). Once the baffle has been cut you can mount it. The baffle should be screwed to the cleats and glue run along all the edges to form an air tight seal.

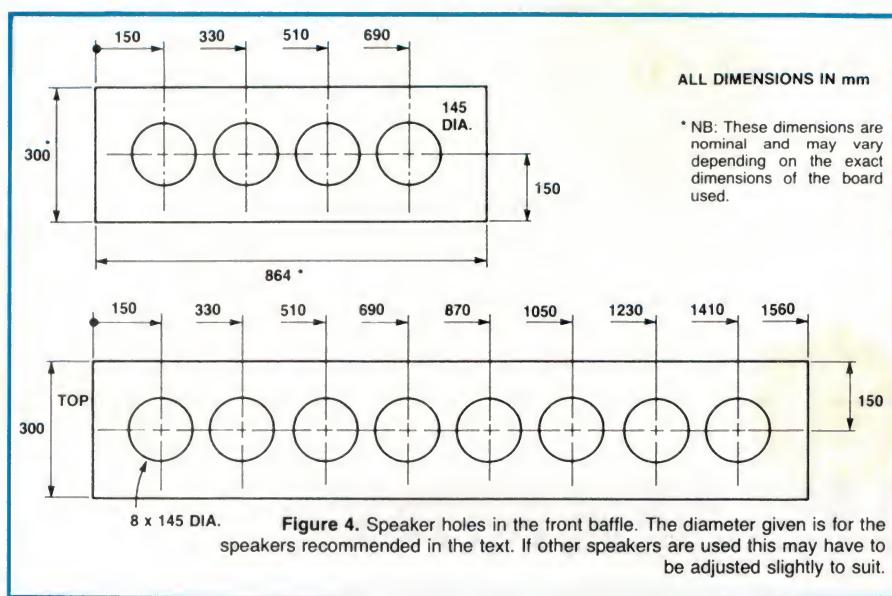
Trim the other 1' x 3' sheet of chipboard to fit neatly into the back of the box and cut the holes to mount the speaker connectors. In the prototype two connectors were paralleled up so that boxes could be paralleled without the necessity of running all the wires back to the amp. Any type of speaker connector can be used but it is probably best to try to find one that doesn't stick out too

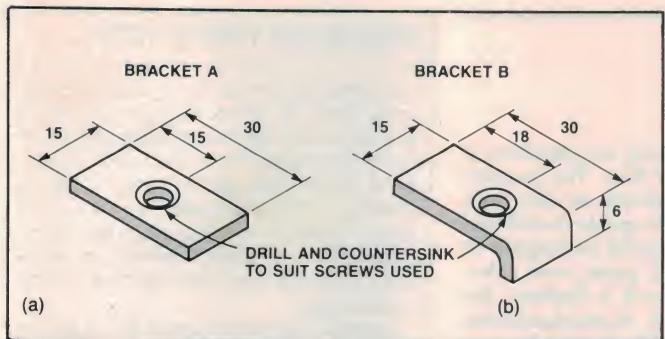
much. If you want to mount the column flush against a wall then you can just drill a small hole and bring the speaker wire out directly. The back panel should be left off for the time being and the remainder of the box left to let the glue dry thoroughly.

While everything is drying it's probably a good time to think about what sort of finish you'd like on the columns. The cheapest and easiest thing to do is to simply paint the outside of the column. On the prototype we filled all the screw holes with a wood filler and then gave the whole box a few good coats of undercoat and finished off with a few coats of matt black enamel. When the speakers were mounted this gave quite a respectable finish and is all that is needed if the columns are to be mounted up on the walls of a hall. If, however, you like a more exotic finish to your columns, you can get a rubber based outdoor patio carpet from Clarke Rubber Stores which can be glued on to the outside of the column and makes an excellent finish as well as protecting the box itself. This carpet is used extensively in commercial PA equipment and gives a very professional look. The front baffle is usually not covered with carpet as this would make the speakers difficult to mount. It is best just to paint it black. Whether you paint or cover, it is recommended to put steel corner pieces on the column as you may quickly find that chipboard will start breaking away at the corners. If the columns are going to sit on a shelf or floor then it's a good idea to put on some screw-on rubber feet as well. The only thing left to consider in the finish area is a grill. I will discuss a couple of grill materials a little further on in the article.

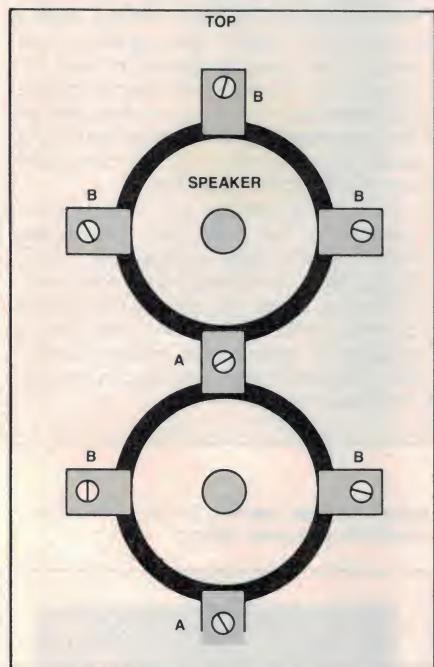
## The speakers

Having built the box it would be nice to have some speakers to go in. The box is a non-ported type and is not tuned for a particular speaker resonance, so the actual driver is a matter of choice. The things to look for when choosing a driver are its frequency range, impedance and price and you can order these in any priority you like. After searching through books and catalogues to find a variety of speakers with enticing frequency responses and depressing prices we decided that we would go the other way and choose some inexpensive speakers that did the job. A small hall may want to put in four columns requiring sixteen speakers in all; these would almost exclusively be used for sound reinforcement of speeches, hardly justifying the cost of expensive full range speakers. The ones we eventually chose were Pioneer 6" (150 mm) car speakers. These were rated as 4 ohm, 10 watts and had a usable frequency range of about 150 Hz to 10 kHz which is quite adequate for speech. These can be bought for under \$4 each from Jaycar (see Shop Around) making their use in columns attractive, and after building the column up the sound was found to be quite good. The only disadvantage was that the treble control on the amp had to be increased slightly to make the t's and s's cut through crisply, but I think in most cases this is preferable to paying four or five times the price for speakers. I'll have a further rave on drivers, particularly on mixing single cones and twin cones, at the end of the article so if you're

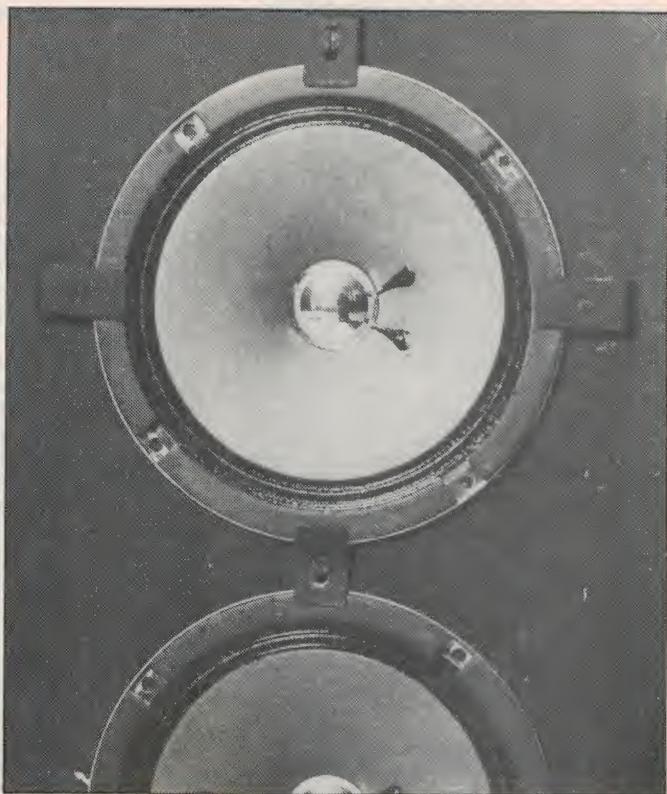




**Figure 5 above.** Shows (a) the dimensions for the brackets that fit in between the speakers; shows (b) details of the brackets for the outside of the speakers.



**Figure 6 left.** Placement of the two types of bracket for speaker mounting. See picture at right.

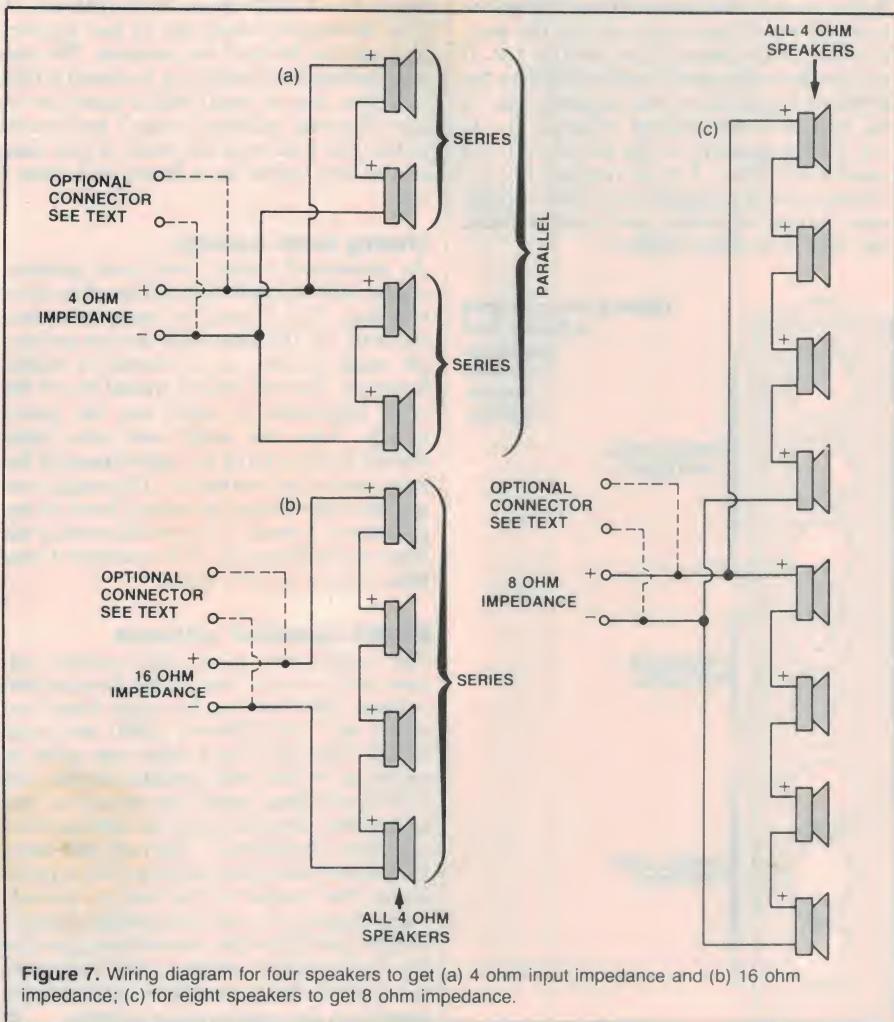


still in doubt as to what to do about drivers then maybe you'd better read that now.

### Mounting and wiring the drivers

If you have done an accurate job on cutting out the holes for the speakers then you'll probably have no problem screwing the speakers to the baffle using the mounting holes provided on the speakers. If, however, like me you cut the holes too big then you may find that there is not enough wood left around the edge of the speaker to allow a screw to be put there. In this case you can make up some small metal brackets to hold the speakers in. A design for suitable brackets is given in Figure 5. You will notice that there are two types of bracket shown. Figure 5a shows the bracket which would be used in between speakers and would provide anchorage for two speakers at the same time. Three of these are necessary. Figure 5b shows the bracket which would be used around the outside of the speakers. Ten of these would be required. Before mounting the speakers make sure that all the painting and carpeting of the columns has been finished and has dried. The speakers can then be mounted in the appropriate manner.

Wiring of the speakers will depend on the impedance of the speakers used and the desired final input impedance. The desired impedance will depend on the drive capabil-



**Figure 7.** Wiring diagram for four speakers to get (a) 4 ohm input impedance and (b) 16 ohm impedance; (c) for eight speakers to get 8 ohm impedance.

# Project 1422

ity of the amplifier and how many columns that you want to use. For example, if you have an amplifier that has a minimum load impedance of 4 ohms and you want to use four columns, then you would want each column to have an impedance of 16 ohms. Four of these columns driven in parallel would present a load impedance to the amplifier of 4 ohms which is what you want. The wiring diagrams for the four speaker column show how to obtain either a 4 ohm or 16 ohm impedance. If you are using 8 ohm speakers then the same wiring diagrams will give impedances of 8 ohms and 32 ohms respectively. If you are unsure about parallel and series impedances then any basic electronics book will tell you the ways to work out the resultant impedance. One thing to be careful of is making sure that the speakers are all wired up in phase with one another. Most speakers will have their terminals marked with a red dot, a plus sign or some other method for showing which terminal is the positive one. If your speakers don't have the positive terminal marked then you can find out by applying a small dc voltage to the speaker. A 1.5 V dry cell is ideal for this. Connect the battery momentarily across the speaker terminals. If the speaker cone moves forwards then the terminal which was connected to the positive side of the battery is the positive one. If the speaker cone moves backwards then the terminal connected to the negative side of the battery is the positive terminal. If you are testing speakers in this way do not use much more than 1.5 V dc and only leave it connected long enough to see which way the cone moves otherwise you could damage the voice coil of the speaker.

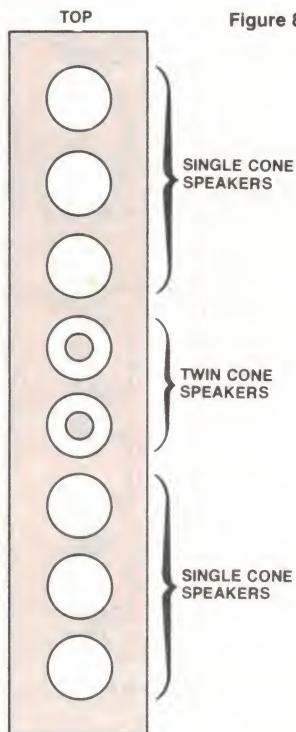


Figure 8. The positioning of the twin cone speakers to implement acoustic tapering.

## Finishing off

After mounting and wiring the speakers, it is time to close up the box. The speaker sockets should be mounted on the back panel and the wire to the speakers soldered on. Acoustic stuffing should be stapled to the inside of the back panel and sides. When all the internal work is finished, the back can be screwed on. A non-hardening silicon compound should be used to form an airtight seal where the back panel sits on the cleats. Silastic is ideal for this. A total of six screws should be adequate to hold the back on securely. The only thing left to think about now is the grille.

For those of you who think that the columns look aesthetically pleasing with bare speakers on the front, the problem of a grille can be ignored. For the others there are several options open. Firstly, ordinary hi-fi speaker cloth can be mounted on a frame and used as a front cover. If the columns are going to be mounted in a place in which they are likely to be hit by objects such as flying basketballs, tennis balls, beer cans etc, then a mild steel mesh commonly used in professional PA speakers can be used. This mesh is known as 12-12-F (catchy name!) and can be bought from B&D Expamet in 8' x 4' (225 mm x 75 mm) sheets. A final alternative would be to use speaker foam for the front of the columns. This has the advantage of being easy to attach (strips of Velcro can be used) and is easily cut to size. The only problem is that I was unable to find out who sells the stuff. If you hunt around you might have better luck than I did.

## Using twin cones

As mentioned earlier, twin cone speakers can be used to implement a form of acoustic tapering. This is done by using twin cone speakers for the innermost drivers and single cones for the rest. It should be noted, however, that all drivers should be of the same impedance to share out the power evenly. Also the single and twin cones should both be rated for approximately the same power and sensitivity. The single cone speakers mentioned previously have an impedance of 4 ohms, so if you still want to use these you will have to find a suitable 4 ohm twin cone to go with them.

## Eight-speaker column

The construction of an eight-speaker column is identical to that of the four-speaker column. The box can be made from four sheets of 1' x 6' (300 mm x 1800 mm) chipboard. The cuts don't come out quite as neatly as in the four-speaker column but c'est la vie! Once again you should be able to get one side and a top or bottom from one sheet of chipboard. The only difference in construction is that an extra cleat is put in across the middle of the box to provide extra bracing. To construct an eight-speaker column just follow the instructions given for the four-speaker column. All comments made about the four-speaker column apply equally to the eight-speaker column. ●

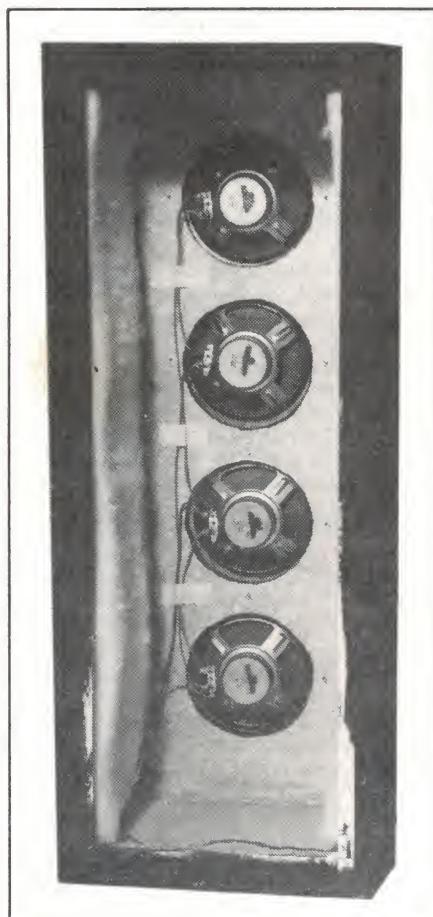
## USING A LINE TRANSFORMER

If the need arises, as it often does in many larger halls, to drive a large number of speakers from the one amplifier, the job of trying to maintain the correct drive impedance to the amp and to ensure that all speakers share the power evenly can be quite a tedious one. To overcome these difficulties it is quite common in large systems to use line transformers to match impedances.

The way this works is that the output of the power amp is fed into a transformer which steps the maximum voltage up to a nominal 100 VRMS. Each speaker then has its own line transformer to step the voltage down to the level required by that particular speaker. Using a system such as this, speakers of different impedances and power ratings can be driven from the same amp without causing problems.

If it is desired to run the columns described in this article with a line transformer system, there is ample room on the floor of the box to mount the transformer. Take care, though, to mount it securely so it won't come loose even if the box is dropped. A paging amp system using a line transformer was described in the July 1984 issue of ETI.

Inside the small column. Showing wiring and placement of acoustic stuffing.



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# RADIO MICROPHONE

Part 1

This is a tiny unit that plugs into the bottom of a microphone. The output can be received in a conventional FM tuner.

Ian Thomas

I'VE HAD quite a few requests now to have a look at a radio microphone with reasonably good performance. There've been circuits published already that have various degrees of quality from single transistor FM band units that must be about as stable as New Zealand, to ready-assembled units that work (more-or-less) OK. Others use a crystal oscillator which is great for stability but tough if someone else is using that particular channel. Getting the full 75 kHz deviation from a crystal-locked oscillator isn't easy and tends to be so tricky to align that it's almost impossible for the hobbyist to set up.

I did a lot of research before I started this project. I asked people what they wanted, and what the Department of Communications allowed. According to the word from those who guide us there are three bands available for radio microphones. A band at around 37 MHz can be used for AM or FM transmission but building reasonably efficient small antennas at this frequency is difficult (read: nigh on impossible). There's another band at 203 MHz used by radio and TV, but I didn't want to risk trouble interfering with Sale of the Century or some such essential service. There's a third band at around 910 MHz but working at these frequencies is *tricky* and very few people have the gear to set things up there. All three bands require that a receiver be built as well, which doubles the expense.

After a lot of soul searching I felt that the only way to give good performance at an affordable price was to use the 88-to-108 MHz FM broadcasting band. Most people already have a good receiver. I also reasoned that if the radio microphone was easily tunable to different channels then interference with broadcasting services would be minimised. The people using the microphone don't want to interfere with a broadcasting station for the simple reason that the broadcasting station

will then interfere with them. All I had to do was ensure that it's always possible for the radio microphone to be adjusted to an empty channel. I'm sure this philosophy will induce howls of rage in certain circles but time will show it's a reasonable point of view.

## The specs

To try to ensure that interference problems were really minimised I decided to adhere to all the other requirements laid down for commercial equipment: namely, frequency stability better than 0.002% if possible (that's the requirement for the 203 MHz FM band), and output stage power not to exceed 35 mW. As the radio microphone was to be used with ordinary FM receivers it must have 50  $\mu$ s pre-emphasis as used in broadcast transmissions. To ensure good performance I decided to have at least better than 1%, or -40 dB, audio distortion. To make sure that the user could always find free space for transmission I also wanted at least half a dozen channels, switch selectable.

The only way the multi-channel requirement could be met was to use a frequency synthesiser of some sort. A range of ICs from Motorola will do the job. They use CMOS so don't draw much power, an essential requirement with battery powered equipment. The IC I chose was the Motorola MC145112 phase-locked loop synthesiser, but there are a whole range of devices with different options available — this one was ideal for the project.

As well as the frequency synthesiser chip a simple divider was needed that would divide down the actual output frequency to one that could be handled by the CMOS dividers in the synthesiser. Once again Motorola had the necessary with an ECL divide-by-64 prescaler that was absolutely ideal for the radio microphone. It only draws 4 mA — a considerable improvement on available devices.

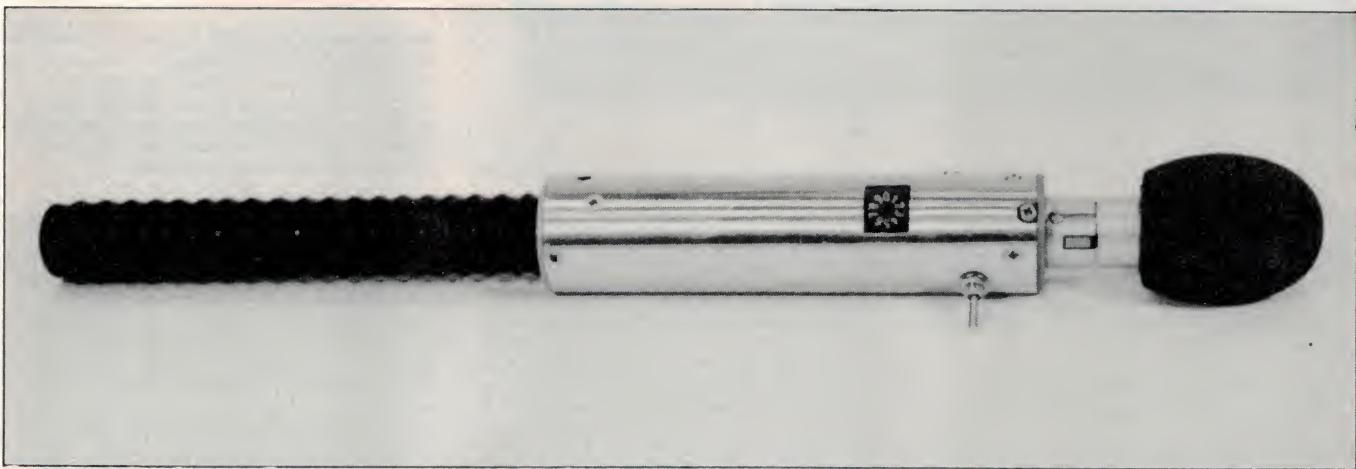
The audio part of the microphone gave no great problem as a careful choice of the dozens of op-amps available easily gave an input amplifier with a 70 dB signal to noise ratio. Because of space and power constraints I had to give away any ideas of limiting or AGC and rely simply on clipping to avoid gross overdeviation (crude, but effective!).

## Design details

A great advantage of using a phase-locked loop (PLL) synthesiser as a signal source is that it's delightfully easy to frequency modulate. The heart of the synthesiser is the voltage controlled oscillator (VCO). This oscillator is running at the output frequency and is kept on frequency by the phase-locked loop. Any signal on the control voltage that sets the frequency will frequency modulate the output signal, so if the audio is deliberately added to the control voltage it gives exactly what we want, namely FM.

This is exactly what is done in the microphone where the dc control voltage is applied to one side of the varactor and the audio is applied to the other. If the control voltage was not filtered, then as the audio signal caused the output frequency to deviate the phase-locked loop would try to pull the output back to the nominal frequency. This would be a very frequency dependant effect and would result in the transmitter having no deviation at all at the low end and rather indeterminate response higher up. The loop low pass filter is added in the control voltage path to remove this problem and, as it starts to attenuate at about 0.5 Hz the modulation is flat to lower than 30 Hz — good enough!

The loop filter does two other essential jobs as well. As the phase-locked loop phase/frequency comparator operates at 3.9 kHz in this system it tends to have an output with ac components at 3.9 kHz and higher harmonics as well as the wanted dc



**Smart, what?** I took some trouble to mount my prototype in a suitable case, with an XLR mic socket at one end and the antenna at the other. Full mechanical description in Part 2. Other styles of housing are also acceptable — it's up to you.

signal. The discriminator is entirely digital so its voltage correction signals are very narrow spikes — super rich in harmonic! The loop filter must massively attenuate these spikes or when the modulator is running a 3.9 kHz whistle will be audible. In the final design the loop filter gives about 60 dB attenuation at the comparison frequency which is about enough.

The other function performed by the loop filter is to ensure that the phase-locked loop is stable and locks up without ringing. The design of control loops that are well behaved has long been a source of heartache and misery but given a few golden rules they usually work OK.

Designing the voltage controlled oscillator gave me by far the most trouble in the design. It is only an LC oscillator and must give the synthesiser all of its short term stability. The phase-locked loop can only hold the oscillator on frequency in the long term as short term corrections are deliberately filtered out to allow the oscillator to be frequency modulated. If the oscillator is noisy then this will show up as noise causing unwanted modulation when there's no input signal. The two basic rules for this are to use a low noise transistor and to use as high a Q tuned circuit as possible.

With regard to the first the 2N2857 has been around for a while and works fine. As for the second, almost all of the unloaded Q degradation is caused by the inductor and tuning diode. Neosid has recently made available a new assembly made specially for small FM receivers known as the K6 assembly. It's ideal for this job as it's very small and very cheap. The only problem is that the plastic they used for the coil former melts if you leave the soldering iron on the terminal pins for more than about three milliseconds — be warned!

To stop the transistor loading the tuned circuit too much and degrading its Q the

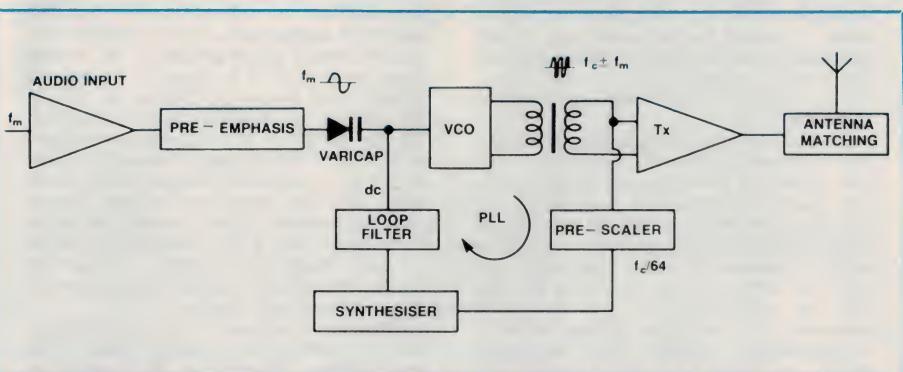
tuned circuit should be of fairly low impedance. I chose about 80 nH for the inductor which gave about 30 pF for the total capacitance. 80 nH means that on the K6 assembly about three to four turns are needed which was nice and easy to wind. To get feedback for the oscillator you could either tap the main winding or wind on a separate winding like I did.

### The oscillator

The oscillator is a common collector configuration where the tuned circuit is connected from the base to ground. The transistor only acts as an impedance converter with somewhat less than unity voltage gain. The resonant circuit is driven from a single turn low impedance winding driven by the emitter. One of the essential features of the oscillator is that it *must* isolate the frequency determining resonant circuit from the antenna and the rest of the transmitter. This is because it's inevitable that things will be moved near and around the antenna and the resultant impedance changes in the output load can pull oscillator frequency. The phase-locked loop will correct these errors but there may be au-

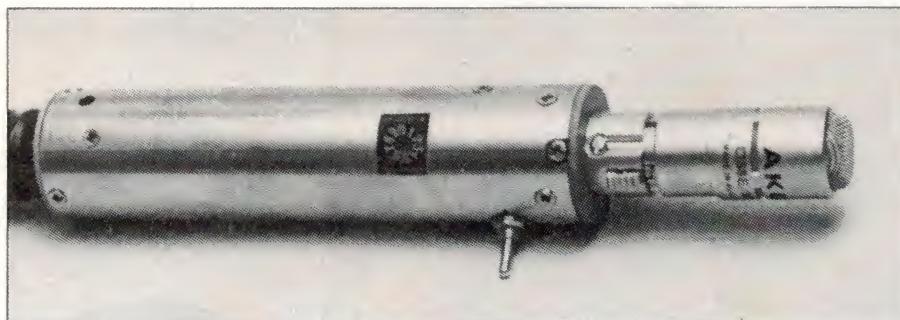
dible bumps if the problem isn't prevented right from the outset. This is why the second transistor Q1 is in series with the oscillator transistor Q2. This configuration is called a cascode stage from the days of those funny glass things that lit up in the dark. The collector of the oscillator stage drives into the emitter of a common base stage.

A common base stage gives the best output to input isolation possible so Q1 buffers the oscillator from any reflected crud from the output stage. But coupling between the oscillator and the output presented its own set of problems. The input impedance to a common base stage is very low and the output impedance of the cascode common base stage is high. A broadband impedance transformer is needed to step the collector impedance down to match the input emitter impedance. A turns ratio of 5:1 or 6:1 is really needed as the input impedance of the output stage is about 10 ohms. This means a 6:1 transformer would transform the emitter impedance to about 360 ohms. The oscillator cascode output impedance is so high com-



**Block diagram.** This shows the basic sections in the radio mic which employs a phase-locked loop synthesiser.

# Project 741



The 'business' end. This shows the unit with an AKG model D 58 E mic plugged in. This mic is only 42 mm long with an XLR plug on the end and is thus eminently suitable for use with the radio mic. It has a hyper-cardioid directional characteristic which is ideal for the application. The agent is AWA (who kindly loaned us the unit).

## HOW IT WORKS — ETI-741

The radio microphone can be divided into nine sections that perform separate functions which are:

- 1) The audio input balanced amplifier
- 2) The audio pre-emphasis and band limiting filter
- 3) The voltage controlled oscillator
- 4) The synthesiser IC
- 5) The phase-locked loop filter
- 6) The transmitter output amplifier
- 7) The synthesiser prescaler
- 8) The output antenna matching network
- 9) The antenna

The audio input balanced amplifier is made up of IC1 together with resistors R1 to R5. The input is direct coupled to input resistors R1 and R2 as the input is assumed to be from a microphone whose two leads are floating with regard to earth. R3 and R4 form a potential divider which defines the dc operating point of the amplifier and the node between the two resistors is connected to the positive input of the amplifier. As the output stage of the CA3140 is not symmetrical the dc operating point is also not exactly between the rail and ground. The CA3140 output can only swing to about 1.5 V from the positive rail as it has a darlington pullup output transistor. However the pulldown transistor is a common emitter transistor so the output can swing to within about 0.2 V of ground. The dc bias on pin 3 reflects this asymmetry and if the amplifier is overdriven then the output is (more or less) clipped symmetrically.

The value of R2 and R3 in parallel is exactly equal to the value of R5 to within tolerancing limits. This ensures that if the two inputs are driven in common mode then the amplifier gives an attenuation of about 50 dB referred to the differential mode signal. However for differential mode signals the gain is equal to R5/R1 whether the non-inverting input (via R2) or the inverting input (via R1) or any combination of both is driven. It should be noted that not all FET input operational amplifiers will work at the low supply voltages of the radio microphone. Notably the TI TL081 gave severe distortion.

The audio pre-emphasis and band limiting filter is formed by R6, R7, R8, C2 and C3. The actual 50 microsecond pre-emphasis time constant is formed by resistors R6, R7 and C2 and is equal to  $(R6+R7)C2$ . C3 and R6 also ensure that the frequency response doesn't continue to rise indefinitely but starts to flatten out at around 20 kHz. As well as flattening out the frequency response at the high end R6 also prevents the operational amplifier from having to drive a capacitive load (C2 in series with C3) at high frequencies, something which

would probably cause IC1 to oscillate.

The synthesiser integrated circuit is a CMOS device which provides all the necessary components to form a complete phase locked loop synthesiser whose operation is described elsewhere. All that is needed is a reference crystal with its associated capacitors between pins 3 and 4, a switch to select frequencies connected to pins 14 to 17 and a loop filter to the output pin 6. The synthesiser programmable divider control inputs are hard wired to give the desired band of frequencies out via pins 9 to 13 and by selectively cutting tracks to these pins any band of frequencies in the 88 to 108 MHz band may be selected. An "out of lock" signal is also available from the IC via pin 7 but was not used in this design. It indicates whether the discriminator is operating in the 'phase' or 'frequency' mode and is a useful indication as to whether the synthesiser output is useable or not.

The voltage controlled oscillator is a cascode transistor oscillator using a hyper-abrupt junction varactor (D1) as its tuning element. The actual oscillator is a common collector amplifier (Q1 and Q2) with the LC resonant circuit connected to the base. Positive feedback is taken from the emitter through a single turn close coupled to the inductor of the resonant circuit. DC bias to the base of the transistor is provided from the reference voltage generator IC4 through R13 and is connected to the 'earthy' end of the resonator inductor. C14 bypasses this reference voltage and ensures that the cold end of the inductor is at ac earth.

Capacitor C12 isolates the varactor (D1) from the dc potential at the base of the transistor and also pads out the varactor capacitance and reduces its frequency pulling range. C13 in parallel with the inductor further pads out the varactor capacitance and sets the centre frequency of the oscillator. Varactor bias from the synthesiser IC is provided from R12 which also ensures that the resonator is isolated for RF from the loop filter components. As the varactor is a reverse biased diode almost no dc current flows through R12 so there is almost no voltage drop across it. The anode end of the varactor is connected to earth through R8. As R8 is part of the pre-emphasis network which is being driven from IC1 a small dc voltage is produced across it (about 0.25 volts) but the synthesiser phase locked loop automatically adds an equal bias to the cathode end and it has no effect. A capacitor could have been added in series with the op-amp output to block this voltage but it was deemed unnecessary.

Q1 acts as a simple common base amplifier and buffers the oscillator circuit from any reflected power from the antenna. It provides no effective gain and from a power

point of view the collector of Q2 could have been connected directly to the interstage transformer L4. However as the oscillator must be very stable to avoid unwanted noise sidebands the second transistor was added in.

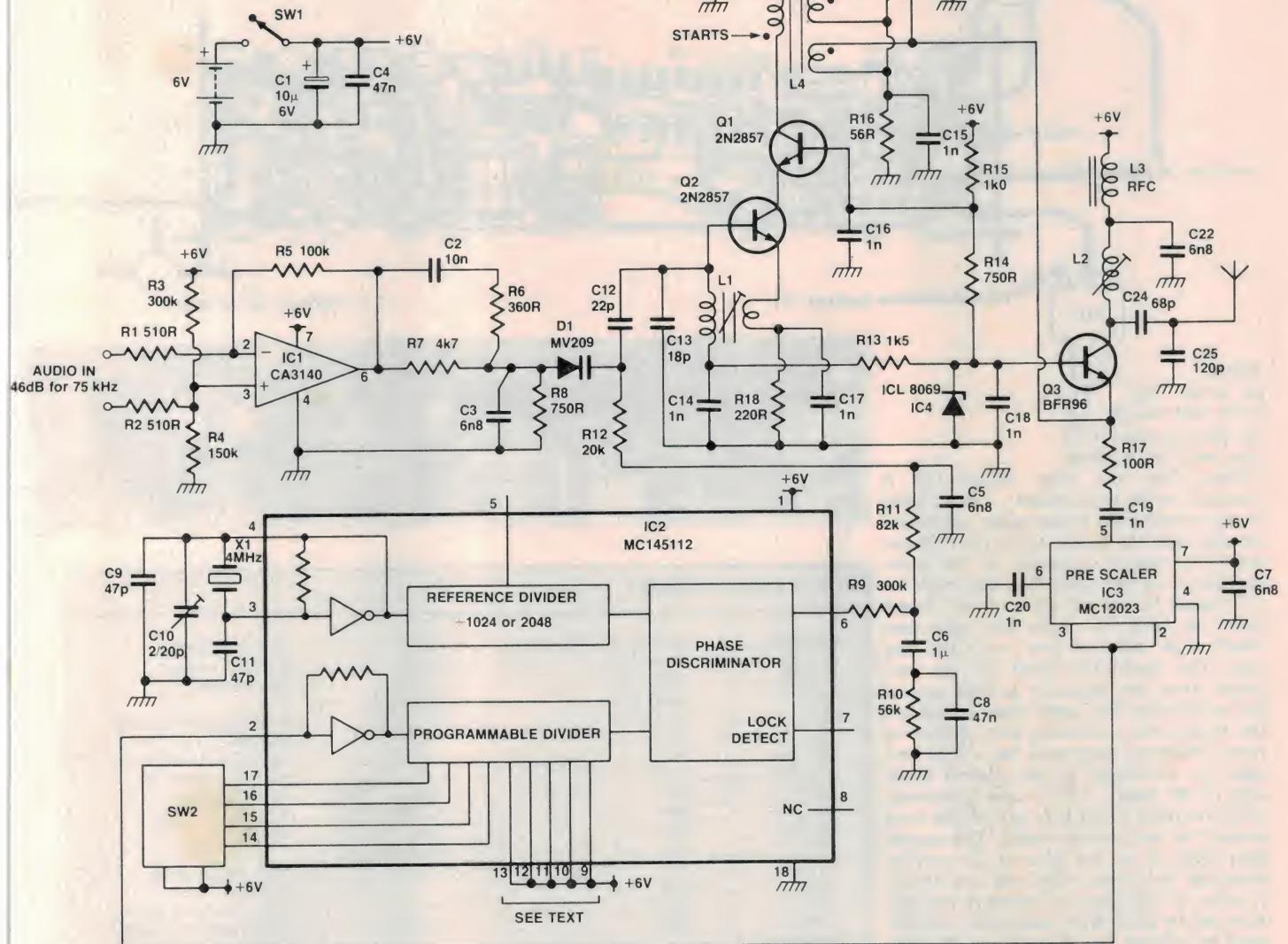
The interstage matching transformer L4 is a 6:1 broadband step-down toroidal transformer that transforms the 9.5 — j7.3 ohms input impedance of Q3 to about 350 ohms. C21 resonates out some of the leakage inductance of the transformer and improves coupling. The winding of the transformer is described elsewhere and ensures that the two windings are tightly coupled.

The output stage is also a common base stage once again to improve isolation of the antenna from the oscillator section. The base is biased directly from IC4 with ac decoupling from C18. Emitter current in the output stage is set by R16 which is bypassed by C15. The secondary of the transformer L4 is in series between R16 and the emitter of Q3. The collector of Q3 is matched to the antenna by L2 and capacitors C24 and C25. The matching is done into a 50 ohm load and as the helical antenna looks like 50 ohms at its resonant frequency excellent power transfer is achieved.

At frequencies below antenna resonance the helical antenna becomes capacitive and its matching network becomes inductive so the combination of the two provides a good match over the entire 10 channel band. The combination of the antenna and its matching network can be thought of as a band pass filter with a bandwidth of about 4 MHz. If it is desired to use the transmitter into a quarter wave length of wire then the matching network will work equally well as the helical antenna looks electrically very similar.

The output power supply is solidly bypassed by a radio frequency choke, L3 together with a capacitor C22. The output stage produces quite high RF currents which must be kept from the rest of the circuitry if oscillator pulling is to be avoided.

A signal is taken from the emitter of the output stage to drive the synthesiser prescaler through R17 and C19. The prescaler is an ECL high speed fixed divider that can accept up to 225 MHz input signals and give out a signal that has been divided down in frequency by 64. The output of the divider is at TTL levels and can be directly coupled to the synthesiser IC2. All the prescaler requires is an ac coupled input signal, a bypass capacitor for an internal reference level and good supply bypassing. It has been specifically designed for low power operation so is ideal for this application.



pared to this sort of impedance that it can be considered to be a constant current generator so the power coupled into the emitter of the output stage can be described by

$$P = n^2 i_{osc}^2 R_e$$

where  $n$  is the broadband matching transformer turns ratio,  $R_e$  is the output stage emitter input impedance, and  $i_{osc}$  is the oscillator output ac current available.

The output transistor is a BFR96 which is capable of about 18 to 20 dB of power gain at these frequencies. The transistor is designed for broadband amplifier operation for CATV and MATV and has an  $f_T$  of about 5 GHz with the right collector current so for our case it is almost operating at dc and very high gains can be achieved. Hence if 30 mW of transmitter output power is wanted we only need about 0.3 to 0.4 mW of input power. Shoving all these figures into the recipe given above we get that with a 6:1 turns ratio we need an oscillator output ac current of about 1 mA. By fiddling with the value of R18 we can set this as required.

**For a guide to components and kits for projects, see SHOPAROUND this issue.**

### The antenna

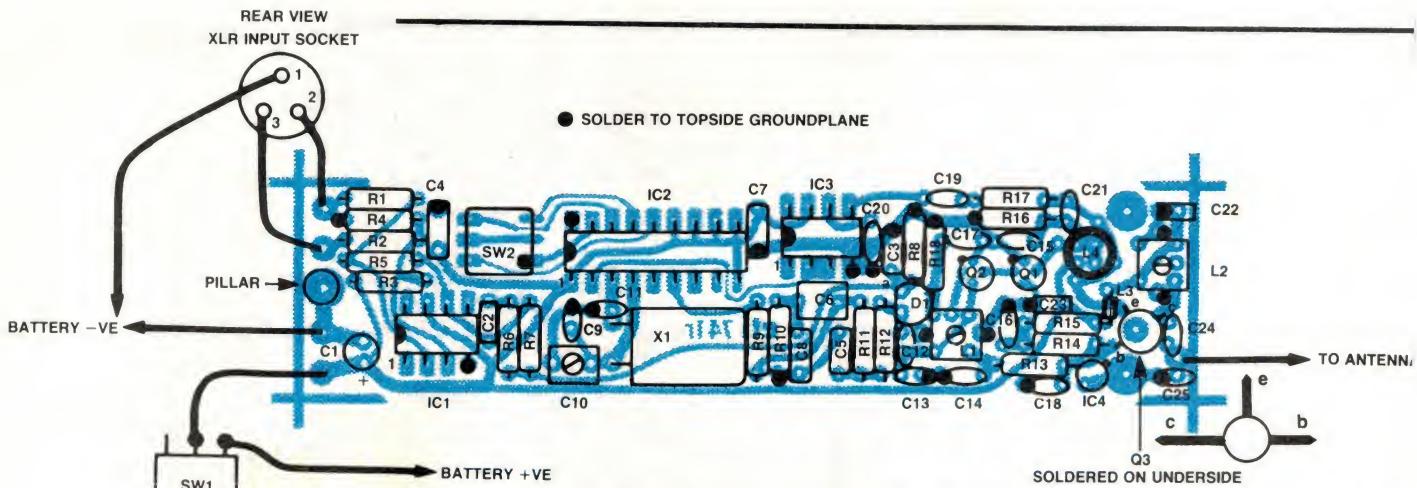
I gave a lot of thought to what was wanted in the antenna. If a piece of wire is wound into a helix then it can start to take on the properties of both an inductor and an antenna, so eliminating the need for a large inductor in this case. If the diameter of the helix is much smaller than the wavelength then the antenna produced is called a 'normal mode helical' antenna (there's another good word to hit your friends with) and can be designed to look electrically rather like a simple whip but with a somewhat lower radiation resistance. This is the principle behind the so-called 'rubber duckie' antennas. It's as if the tuning inductance at the base of a short whip antenna is distributed along the antenna. This principle can be carried a great deal further than is normally done with the 'rubber duckies'. Design recipes are available to ensure that the final antenna is purely resistive.

### Construction

The first part of the transmitter to be made is the printed circuit board. As some quite high currents can flow in parts of the circuit at 100 MHz a good solid ground is needed so double-sided board is used with all of one side being groundplane. I taped up the wiring side with one-to-one tape then made a second artwork by using pads to cover the places where I wanted component leads to come through the board and not contact the groundplane. The groundplane artwork was then reversed using 'Scotchcal' reversing film. If you don't want to make your own artwork you can buy it from ETI (see Shoparound). Given the right artwork making double-sided boards is not much more complicated than making single-sided.

All you have to do is exactly line up the two artworks over each other and tape them together on two opposite sides.

After etching, strip off the resist and ►



drill all the holes. The holes that accept the pins on the coil cans need to be about 1.3 mm and the hole where Q3 is mounted needs to be about 5 mm. Most of the components mount quite easily and directly onto the board. Q3 is the only unusual one and it's mounted on the opposite side to all the other bits. The leads for Q3 should be cut off about 2 to 2.5 mm from the body but make sure you note which is the collector first — it's the long one. The tracks that hold Q3 are pretinned then the transistor is held against the board with the leads lined up against the tracks and a soldering iron applied to them. When a component has a lead that must be connected to the ground plane side of the board a little care is needed.

The first thing to do is to pre-tin the area around the hole on the board. The copper goes right up to the hole so it's easy to cover the hole with solder and you'll have to clear it. It's almost a certainty that the hole will be filled with solder flux and this must be cleared too. I use a cut off component lead held about 5 mm from the end firmly with pliers and jam it through the hole. Then pre-tin the component (resistor or capacitor) lead right up to the body. This bends the rules of component soldering a bit but if you use a temperature controlled soldering iron and be quick it should be OK. Finally place the component in the holes and solder the earth lead to the ground plane with the component body 2 or 3 mm from the board. Keep the solder molten by keeping the soldering iron tip on the ground plane next to the lead and make sure the solder meniscus isn't broken. Slide down the component until it's about 0.5 mm from the board and let things cool off. Then solder both leads on the wiring side and it's done. This procedure's a bit messy but it's important to get a good earth, particularly for the bypass capacitors. For Q1 and Q2 just solder the leads on the wiring side. For the IC leads that go to earth it's quite easy to just form a fillet of solder on the outside of the lead to ground and it'd be most unwise to cook the bejesus out of a \$10 synthesiser IC.

## PARTS LIST — ETI-741

Resistors.....		all 1/4W, 2% unless noted
R1, R2 .....	510R, 1/2%	
R3, R9 .....	300k, 1/2%	
R4.....	150k, 1/2%	
R5.....	100k, 1/2%	
R6.....	360R	
R7.....	4k7	
R8, R14 .....	750R	
R10.....	56k	
R11.....	.82k	
R12.....	20k	
R13.....	1k5	
R15.....	1k0	
R16.....	56R	
R17.....	100R	
R18.....	220R	
Capacitors		
C1.....	10μ/6 V tant.	
C2.....	10n/63 V met. poly.	
C3, C5, C7, C22 .....	6n8 ceramic monolithic	
C4.....	47n ceramic monolithic	
C6.....	1μ/63 V met. poly.	
C8.....	47n/63 V met. poly.	
C9, C11 .....	47p NPO ceramic	
C10.....	2-10p Philips trimmer type 2222-809-05002	
C12.....	22p NPO ceramic	
C13.....	18p NPO ceramic	
C14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 23.....	1n Hi-K ceramic	

C21.....	39p NPO ceramic
C24.....	68p NPO ceramic
C25.....	120p ceramic
<b>Semiconductors</b>	
D1.....	MV209 Motorola varicap
IC1.....	CA3140E
IC2.....	MC145112P Motorola
IC3.....	MC12023P Motorola
IC4.....	ICL8069 Intersil
Q1, Q2 .....	2N2857
Q3 .....	BFR96
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
SW1 .....	SPST toggle switch, C & K 'tiny toggle', type
T1001-SHZQ, or similar	
SW2 .....	E10-position BCD-coded switch, Eeco type 231002, right-angled pc mount.
X1.....	4.000 MHz crystal, parallel resonant with 30p load.

ETI-741 pc board (double-sided); two Neosid K6 coil assemblies; Philips toroid, 6 mm O.D. by 4 mm I.D. by 2.5 mm thick, 4C6 ferrite (or similar); 3 mm by 3 mm ferrite bead; one XLR line socket; wire for winding coils and antenna (see text); hookup wire; mechanical components (see text — or as required).

**Price estimate: \$35-\$42**  
(not including microphone)

## Winding coils

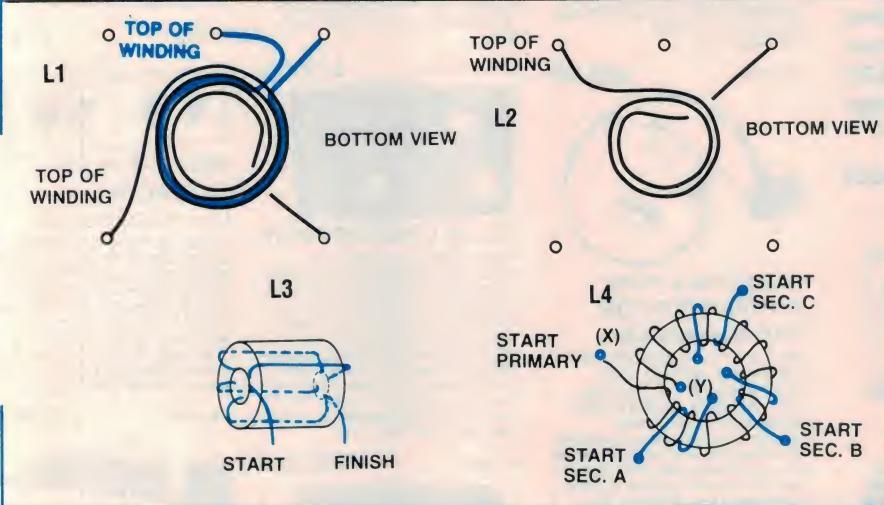
Winding the coils and transformers is the next job. The easiest is the radio frequency choke, L3, so we'll start with that. It consists of 4½ turns of wire wound on a ferrite bead 3 mm long by 3 mm in diameter and wind the turns spaced 60° apart on the bead. Tin the ends of the wire to within about 1 mm from the bead and solder it onto the board.

The next one is the broadband transformer, L4. Using the same wire as for

the choke wind 12 turns evenly and tightly around the toroidal core. I used a Philips grade 4C6 ferrite core 6 mm in diameter but Neosid makes an equivalent RF ferrite. Either should work OK though I didn't try the Neosid one. The turns should be evenly spaced and go all the way around the core so the two ends of the winding are within 1 mm or so of each other. Next wind the three secondary windings using a heavier wire, say 0.25 mm. Each winding has two turns

# FM radio mic

**Figure 1.** Coil winding details. The winding and termination of L4 should be viewed with respect to the pc board overlay at left.



wound between the primary turns and each winding is spaced  $90^\circ$  from the next around the core. The board layout is done assuming the secondary turns are done in a certain sense so before you wind them look carefully at the board and make sure that the ends of the secondary windings come off the core in the right place to go neatly through the holes in the board with no bending.

Tin all the leads to within 1 mm of the core and carefully sort out the leads and thread them through the appropriate holes. It's essential that no secondary winding be reversed in sense from any other. Lower the toroid down onto the board until it's about 1 mm from the board and check that all the secondaries come straight off the core and through the board. The secondary windings should securely hold the transformer in place so when the leads are soldered no further mounting is needed. The phasing of the primary winding isn't important but make sure the two primary leads don't cross over each other.

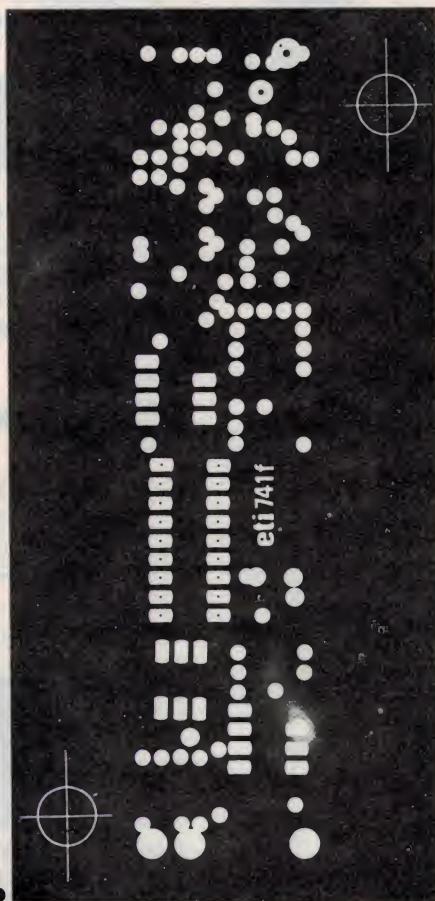
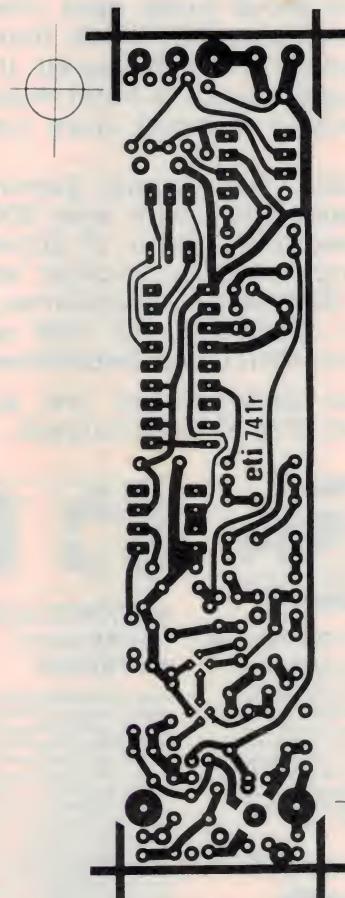
The output matching coil L2 uses a Neosid K6 assembly but only has one winding so it is pretty easy to wind. The winding should be a nice stout wire, say 0.3 to 0.35 mm diameter. Cut a piece of wire about 50 mm long and tin 3 mm of one end. Form the tinned end into a tiny hook and hook it around the pin of the coil former indicated in Figure 1. Push the hook right up against the body of the coil former and crimp it tight with a pair of fine long-nosed pliers. Solder it in place quickly using the bare minimum amount of solder possible. The coil former's made of a plastic that isn't at all resistant to heat and if you take more than about a second the pin will come loose.

Loop the wire around and onto the coil former body. Wind two and a quarter

turns spacing the turns a distance approximately equal to the diameter of the wire. Before bending the wire down to go over the other pin, tin it to within about 4 to 5 mm from the coil former. Then bend it down and wrap it around the terminal pin. Crimp it with long nosed pliers and solder it as before. Try the ferrite cup core on to make sure it'll fit right over the winding.

Finally paint the winding with polystyrene lacquer to hold the winding in place. If you can't get this sort of lacquer some clear nail varnish would do. Then glue the outer cup core in place using superglue making sure that it goes completely over the winding and almost down to the base of the former. The coil can then be soldered in place. The coil can should then be slipped over the coil and its two pins soldered down. It's not necessary to solder it on the earth side of the board — you'd risk damaging the former. Just solder the wiring side.

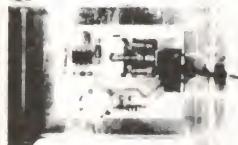
The last and most awkward coil is the oscillator coil L1. The primary has 3.75 turns of 0.25 mm diameter wire. Start by tinning one end as for L3 and attach it to the pin shown in the winding detail Figure 2 once again using the absolute minimum amount of solder. Wind on the 3.75 turns spacing them slightly more than a wire diameter apart. Tin the loose end as for L3 but allow a bit more insulation to stay, say 6 mm, and terminate the end on the pin shown. Next, using some 0.35 mm wire thread the secondary once under the primary lead half way up the coil and wrap it once tightly around the coil former. Squeeze the two ends together so they come away from the coil former and tin them to within 5 mm from the former. Bend them down to the space in the former for the wires to go through to the terminating pins and terminate them as shown on the diagram... **to be continued.**



**PERFECT PROJECTS FOR THE CHRISTMAS BREAK!** What better way to spend those quiet days over the Christmas/New Year break than putting together an electronic kit. It's the perfect opportunity to build those kits you wouldn't normally have time to do.

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For your convenience we accept Bankcard, Visa and Mastercard.



#### CAR IGNITION KILLER

Most car burglar alarms are easily circumvented, but not this cunning "Ignition Killer". This sneaky antitheft device uses a 555 timer to place an intermittent short circuit across the points. Until disabled by its hidden switch the circuit effectively makes the car undriveable — a sure deterrent to thieves! (EA Feb. '84).

84AU1      \$16.95  
(Our kit includes the box!)



#### MICROBEE SERIAL-TO-PARALLEL INTERFACE

Most Microcomputers worth owning have an 'RS232' connector, or port, through which serial communications (input/output) is conducted. It is a convention that, for listing on a printer, the BASIC LIST or LPRINT command assumes a printer is connected to the RS232 port. Problem is, serial interface printers are more expensive than parallel 'Centronics' interface printers. Save money by building this interface. (ETI Jan. '84).

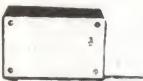
ETI-675      \$55.00



#### ELECTRONIC MOUSETRAP

This clever electronic mousetrap disposes of mice instantly and mercifully, without fail, and resets itself automatically. They'll never get away with the cheese again! (ETI Aug. '84).

Cat. ETI 1524      \$29.95



#### TEMP PROBE

Can measure temperature from -50° to +150°C. It simply plugs into your multimeter — great for digital multimeters. Accuracy of 0.1°C resolution of 0.1°C. (ETI June '83).

ETI-153      \$22.50



#### DUAL TRACKING POWER SUPPLY

Built around positive and negative 3-Terminal Regulators, this versatile dual tracking Power Supply can provide voltages from ±1.3V to ±22V at currents up to 2A. In addition, the Supply features a fixed +5V 0.9A output and is completely protected against short circuits, overloads and thermal runaway. (EA March '82)

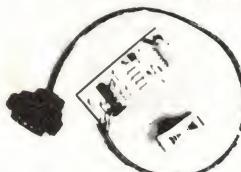
82PS2      \$87.50



#### PUSHBUTTON-PROGRAMMABLE WIPER CONTROLLER

No more fiddling with knobs and not getting the delay between wipes that you want — this windspeed wiper controller is simply programmed with two pushbuttons to provide the wiping delay you need. (ETI Mar. '83).

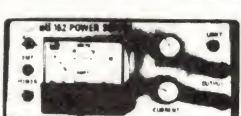
ETI-335      \$28.50



#### RADIOTELETYPE CONVERTER FOR THE MICROBEE

Have your computer print the latest news from the international shortwave news service. Just hook up this project between your shortwave receiver's audio output and the MicroBee parallel port. A simple bit of software does the decoding. Can be hooked up to other computers too. (ETI Nov. '81).

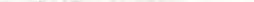
ETI-733      \$20.00



#### 30 V/1 A FULLY PROTECTED POWER SUPPLY

The last power supply we did was the phenomenally popular ETI-131. This low cost supply features full protection, output variation from 0V to 30V and selectable current limit. Both voltage and current metering is provided. (ETI Dec. '83).

ETI-162      \$49.50



#### PHONE MINDER

Dubbed the Phone Minder, this handy gadget functions as both a bell extender and paging unit, or it can perform either function separately. (EA Feb. '84).

84TP2      \$24.00



#### ZENER TESTER

A simple low cost add-on for your multimeter. This checks zeners and reads out the zener voltage directly on your multimeter. It can also check LEDs and ordinary diodes. (ETI May '83).

ETI-164      \$9.50



#### MODEL ENGINE IGNITION SYSTEM

Get sure starts every time and no more glow plug burnouts on your model engines. (ETI June '83)

ETI-1516      \$41.50



#### FUNCTION GENERATOR

This Function Generator with digital readout produces Sine, Triangle and Square waves over a frequency range from below 20Hz to above 160Hz with low distortion and good envelope stability. It has an inbuilt four-digit frequency counter for ease and accuracy of frequency setting. (EA April '82).

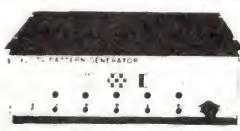
82AO3A/B      \$79.50



#### SLIDE CROSS-FADER

Want to put on a really professional slide show? This slide cross-fader can provide smooth dissolves from one projector to another, initiate slide changing automatically from an in-built variable timer, and synchronise slide changes to pre-recorded commentary or music on a tape recorder. All this at a cost far less than comparable commercial units. (EA Nov. '81).

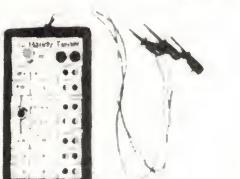
81SS11      \$85.00



#### TV PATTERN GENERATOR

Anyone wishing to obtain the maximum performance from a colour TV receiver needs a pattern generator. Why not build this completely new design which provides five separate patterns, dot, crosshatch, checker-board, grey scale and white raster. (EA June '80).

80PG6      \$67.50



#### INVERTER

This 12 240V inverter can be used to power mains appliances rated up to 40W, or to vary the speed of a turntable. As a bonus, it will also work backwards as a trickle charger to top up the battery when the power is on. (EA May '82).

82IV5      \$49.50

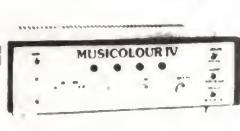


#### TRANSISTOR TESTER

1000's SOLD

Have you ever desoldered a suspect transistor, only to find that it checks OK? Troubleshooting exercises are often hindered by this type of false alarm, but many of them could be avoided with an "in-circuit" component tester, such as the EA Handy Tester. (EA Sept. '83).

83TT8      \$15.00



#### MUSICOLOR IV

Add excitement to parties, card nights and discos with EA's Musicolor IV light show. This is the latest in the famous line of musicolors and it offers features such as four channel "color organ" plus four channel light chaser, front panel LED display, internal microphone, single sensitivity control plus opto-coupled switching for increased safety. (EA Aug. '81).

81MC8      \$84.00



#### ELECTRIC FENCE

Mains or battery powered, this electric fence controller is both inexpensive and versatile. Based on an automotive ignition coil, it should prove an adequate deterrent to all manner of livestock. Additionally, its operation conforms to the relevant clauses of Australian Standard 3129. (EA Sept. '82).

82EF9      \$19.50



#### MOTORCYCLE INTERCOM

OVER 500 SOLD!

Motorcycling is fun, but the conversation between rider and passenger is usually just not possible. But build this intercom and you can converse with your passenger at any time while you are on the move. There are no "push-to-talk" buttons, adjustable volume and it's easy to build! (EA Feb. '84).

84CM5      \$36.50



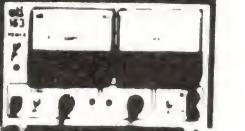
#### 12-230V DC-AC INVERTER

INCLUDING TRANSFORMER 300 WATTS

This EA Inverter is capable of driving mains appliances rated up to 300VA and features voltage regulation and full over load protection. (EA June '82).

Nominal Supply Voltage	.....	12V DC
Output Voltage	.....	see table
Frequency	.....	50Hz ± 0.05%
Regulation	.....	see table
Maximum Load	.....	300VA
Current Limiting	.....	30A (primary)
Efficiency	.....	see table
P & P	\$10.00.	Anywhere in Australia.

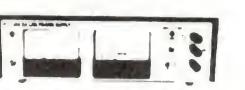
82IV6      \$195.00



#### LAB SUPPLY

Fully variable 0-40V current limited 0-5A supply with both voltage and current metering (two ranges: 0-0.5A/0-5A). This employs a conventional series-pass regulator, not a switchmode type with its attendant problems, but dissipation is reduced by a unique relay switching system switching between laps on the transformer secondary. (ETI May '83).

ETI-163      \$175.00



#### 50V 5A LABORATORY POWER SUPPLY

New switchmode supply can deliver anywhere from three to 50V DC and currents of 5A at 35V or lower. Highly efficient design. (EA May, June '83)

83PS5      \$140.00



NEW

### CENTRE RETURN JOYSTICK

Features 2 x 150K pots, long shaft 40mm with 25mm control ball. Bonus adjustable offset feature on pots.

Cat. X15637 1-9 10+ \$9.95 \$8.95



### ECONOMY TOGGLE SWITCHES

Unbelievable Value!

1-9	10+	100+
S11010 (SPDT)	\$1.00	\$0.90
S11020 (DPDT)	\$1.20	\$1.00
	\$0.80	\$0.90



### QUARTZ CRYSTAL CLOCK MOVEMENT

- ★ Very compact and reliable.
- ★ Self starting one second stepping motor has strong torque.
- ★ Powered by 1.5V AA battery that lasts for a year.
- ★ Supplied with two sets of hands, one short and one long.
- ★ +15 seconds/month accuracy.
- ★ 56mm square, 15mm deep. Complete with data sheet, instructions and wall hanger bracket.

Cat. XC0100 \$14.95



### BRAND NEW FANS

Not noisy pullouts! Stacks of uses in power amps, computers, hotspot cooling etc. Anywhere you need plenty of air.

Cat. T12461 240V 4½" \$16.95

Cat. T12463 115V 4½" \$16.95

Cat. T12465 240V 3½" \$16.95

Cat. T12467 115V 3½" \$16.95

10 Fans (mixed) less 10%



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Fits into standard 20W fluoro holder. Suitable for Scrtchcl. Eprom erasing etc. As used in ETI Eeprom Erasing Kit. WARNING: Do not look directly into UV Tubes!! If ordering by mail please include an extra \$2 for "SPECIAL" packing.

Cat. H28600 \$24.95



### 2K OHM MULTI METER

11 Ranges, pocket size.

#### SPECIFICATIONS:

11 RANGES  
DC VOLTAGE: 0-10-50-250-1000 volts 2000 ohms/volt  
AC VOLTAGE: 0-10-50-250-1000 volts 2000 ohms/volt  
DECIBELS: -10 to +22dB in four ranges.  
OMHMETOR: 0-10 kohms. 0.1 mega-ohms.  
DC CURRENT: 1-100mA

normally \$14.95  
this month \$9.95



### KEY SWITCHES

1-9 10+  
Cat. S12500 \$3.95 \$3.75



### HALF HEIGHT 5 INCH

### DRIVE SPECIALISTS

WITH BARE BOX DRIVE & P.S.  
MITSUBISHI  
M4851 500K byte \$299 \$349  
M4853 1M byte \$359 \$399  
M4854 1.6M byte \$399 \$439

### CANNON TYPE AUDIO CONNECTIONS



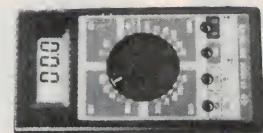
We've sold 1000's because of their great value!!

3 Pin line male 1-9 10+  
Cat. P10960 \$1.90 \$1.80

3 Pin chassis male  
Cat. P10962 \$1.90 \$1.80

3 Pin line female  
Cat. P10964 \$2.50 \$2.10

3 pin chassis female  
Cat. P10966 \$2.90 \$2.20



### WE HAVE DONE IT AGAIN!!

New multimeter at unbeatable value for under \$40! The new YU FONG YFE-1030C will be arriving late November and features:

- ★ Large 3½ digit display, (½ inch high).
  - ★ Autopolarity, "-" display for Negative input.
  - ★ High over-load protection for all ranges.
  - ★ Over-load display, highest figure "1" or "-1" alone glows.
  - ★ Power consumption 20mW approx.
- Order now and you won't be disappointed.

Cat. H28600 \$24.95

\$39.95



### ELECTRET MIC INSERTS

With pins for easy board insertion.

1+	10+	100+
\$1.25	\$1.10	\$1.00



### IC SOCKETS (LOW PROFILE) How cheap can they go??

1+	10+	100+	1000+
8 pin Cat. 15c	14c	12c	09c

14 pin Cat. 16c	15c	14c	10c
-----------------	-----	-----	-----

16 pin Cat. 17c	16c	15c	11c
-----------------	-----	-----	-----

18 pin Cat. 18c	17c	16c	13c
-----------------	-----	-----	-----

20 pin Cat. 29c	28c	27c	26c
-----------------	-----	-----	-----

24 pin Cat. 35c	33c	32c	28c
-----------------	-----	-----	-----

40 pin Cat. 45c	40c	35c	30c
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### SOLDER CENTRONICS PLUGS

Unreal price for absolute top quality. Normally \$14.95 (Our opposition charge up to \$19.95).

1-9	10+	100+
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\$6.95	\$5.95	\$4.95
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### VIDEO RF SIMULATOR

At an unbelievable price!  
Our RF modulators are channel selectable either Channel 0 or Channel 1

1-9	10+
Cat. S16040	\$4.95

\$3.95
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### BREADBOARD SPECIALS

#### Why pay more??

Competitors Price	Our Price
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Cat. P11000, 100 holes	\$1.50
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\$2.95	\$1.50
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P11005, 640 holes	\$5.95
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\$8.95	\$5.95
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P11009, 840 holes	\$10.95
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\$14.85	\$10.95
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P11012, 1,680 holes	\$19.95
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\$27.95	\$19.95
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P11015, 2,420 holes	\$29.95
---------------------	---------

\$45.00	\$29.95
---------	---------

### PANEL METER BARGAINS!!

250 ua Sensitivity Panel cut out 36 x 16mm. Mounting hole centres at 49mm.

Cat. Q10400 normally \$4.50  
this month \$2.95



250 ua Sensitivity centre "0" very useful for balanced circuit and applications needing a centre "0" or null indication.

Cat. Q10405 normally \$4.95  
this month \$2.95



### LOGIC PROBE 3800A

Features 20MHz, memory, TTL/CMOS operation. Normally \$29.50 now only ...

1-9	10+
-----	-----

Cat. Q11272	\$19.50
-------------	---------

\$17.50
---------



### PROJECT ELECTRONICS

Here are 11 great projects for the beginners from the ETI Project Electronics publication (5th Edition).

043 Heads of Tails	\$3.90
--------------------	--------

044 Two tone doorbell	\$4.90
-----------------------	--------

047 Morse practice set	\$3.90
------------------------	--------

048 Buzz board	\$4.50
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061 Basic Amplifier	\$5.90
---------------------	--------

065 Electronic siren	\$5.90
----------------------	--------

066 Temperature alarm	\$5.50
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067 Singing moisture	\$7.95
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068 LED dice	\$6.90
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072 Two octave organ	\$9.50
----------------------	--------

084 Car alarm	\$13.50
---------------	---------

All these Kits are available from us, at Rod Irving Electronics!!

Cat. B11185	\$4.75
-------------	--------

OR "FREE!" with every order for 10 or more Kits!!	
---	--



### MICRON DATASETTE

For data loading and saving, this Micron Datasette suits most home computers and features tape counter, monitor function for audio verification and slide volume control for output level.

Cat. C14900	\$39.50
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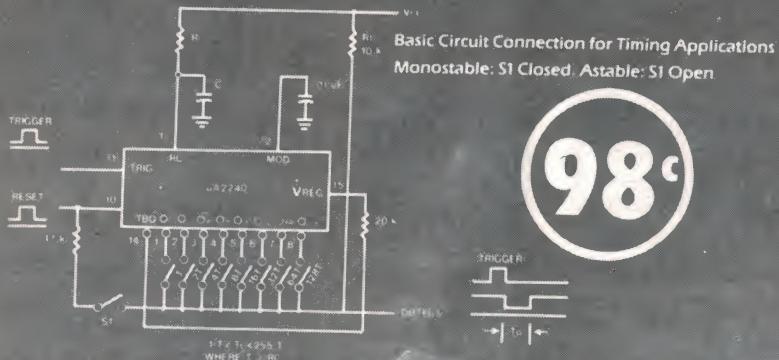
**MELBOURNE** (03) 561 5844 **SYDNEY** (02) 922 3220  
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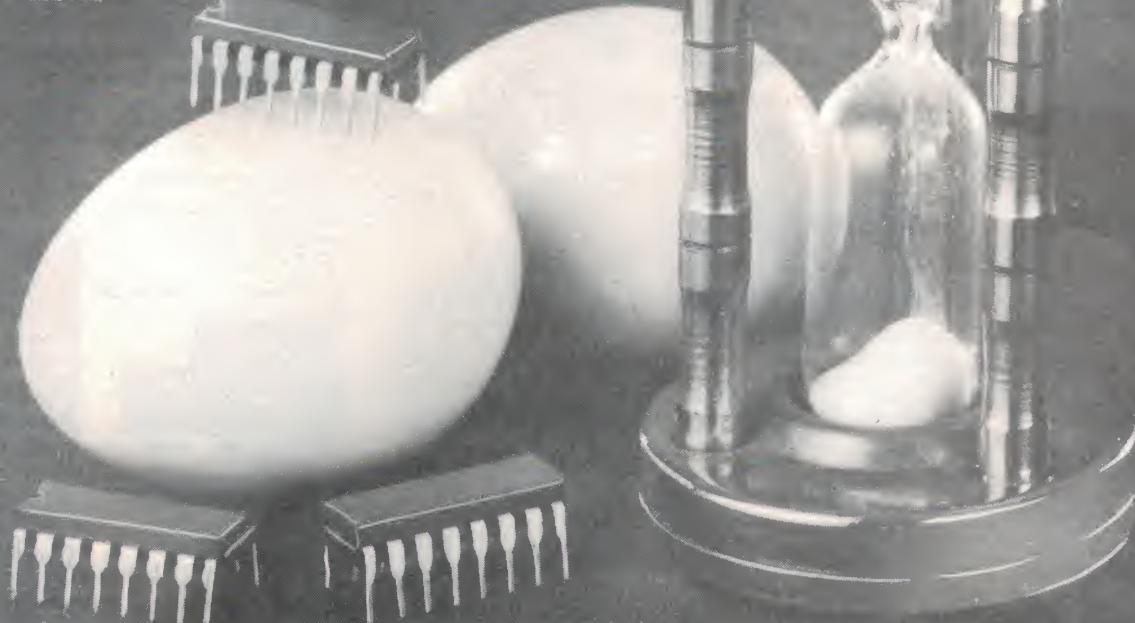
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UA1458TC	Dual Internally Compensated	.28	UA4136PC	Quad Op Amp
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UA301ATC	General Purpose	.37	UA759UIC	Power Op Amp
UA308TC	Super Beta	.35	UA77ITC	Single BIFET
			UA772TC	Dual BIFET

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Device	Description	Price
UA1488PC	Quad Line Driver	.48
75451BTC	Dual Peripheral Drivers	.55
75452BTC	Dual Peripheral Drivers	.52
75453BTC	Dual Peripheral Drivers	.52
9636ATC	Dual Programmable Slew Rate Line Driver	\$1.52
9637ATC	Dual Differential Line Receiver	\$1.52
9667PC	High Current Voltage, Darlington Driver	.65
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UA78L62AWC	3-Terminal Positive	.30
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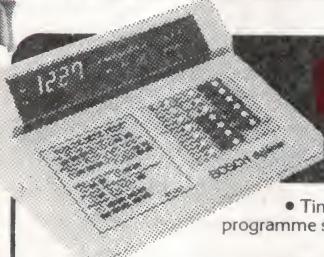
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74HC03N	QUAD 2 I/P NAND	.85	74HC37N	HEX FLIP/FLOP	\$3.08
74HC09N	QUAD 2 I/P AND	.85	74HC39N	4 BIT COUNTER	\$2.20
74HC10N	TRIPLE 3 I/P NAND	.85	74HC4002N	DUAL 4 I/P NOR	.85
74HC11N	TRIPLE 3 I/P AND	.85	74HC4075N	TRIPLE 3 I/P NOR	.85
74HC20N	DUAL 4 I/P NAND	.85	75HC620N	OCTAL BUS TRANSCEIVER INV.	\$5.59
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74HC36N	QUAD 2 I/P NOR	.85	75HC645N	OCTAL BUS TRANSCEIVER TRUE	\$5.12
74HC42N	1 OF 10 DECODER	\$1.58			
74HC51N	AND/OR INVERTER	.85			
74HC74N	DUAL JK FLIP FLOP	\$1.20	2516-(2716)	16K (2Kx8) EPROM T.I.	\$4.27
74HC76N	DUAL JK FLIP FLOP	\$1.20	2532	32K (4Kx8) EPROM T.I.	\$8.05
74HC86N	QUAD EX-OR GATE	\$1.10	2564	64K (8Kx8) EPROM T.I.	\$13.80
74HC107N	DUAL JK KMASTER R/F	\$1.10	2732	32K (4Kx8) EPROM (FLW.)	\$7.75
74HC112N	DUAL JK FLIP FLOP	\$1.20	2764	64K (8Kx8) EPROM (FLW.)	\$10.79
74HC113N	DUAL JK FLIP FLOP	\$1.20	27128	128K (8Kx16) EPROM (FLW.)	\$34.50
74HC139N	DUAL 2/4 LINE DEC/MUX	\$1.54	27C256	32Kx8 CMOS EPROM (FLW.)	\$156.40
74HC151N	DATA SELECTOR MUX	\$1.41	6834	512x8 EPROM	\$15.30
74HC160N	SYNC. 4 BIT COUNTER	\$2.05			
74HC165N	8 BIT SHIFT REGISTER	\$3.08	4044-30	4Kx1 STATIC RAM	\$1.73
74HC175N	QUAD D FLIP FLOP	\$1.58	4116	16K DYNAMIC RAM	\$2.30
75HC190N	SYNC. 4 BIT UP/DOWN COUNTER	\$2.36	4164	64K DYNAMIC RAM	\$7.76
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74HC243N	QUAD BUS TRANSCEIVER	\$3.08	8118	16Kx1 DYNAMIC RAM	\$4.54
74HC244N	OCTAL LINE DRIVER	\$3.23	8155	256x8 RAM	\$4.34
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- Suitable for professional or home use.

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#### SPECIFICATIONS

Picture Tube	: 12"	Deflection	: 12°, 90°
Display Format	: 80 character x 24 rows.	9 dots, 10 line/character	
Display Area Example	: (H) 210mm (8 1/2 inches)	(V) 150mm (5 9/32 inches)	
Input Signal	: Composite Video/Sync.	1.0 Vp-p (Negative Sync.)	
Input Impedance	: 75 ohm		
			Input Signal Connector : RCA (female) Pin Jack
			Hor. Sync. Frequency : 15.75 ± 0.3 kHz (Standard)
			15.75 kHz
			Ver. Sync. Frequency : 49 - 61Hz (Standard 60Hz)
			Video Band Width : 22 MHz
			Resolution : 720 pixels x 240 lines
			Linearity : Horizontal 8%, Vertical 8%
			Geometric Distortion : ±2%

## GREAT VALUE ON VOLTAGE REGULATORS

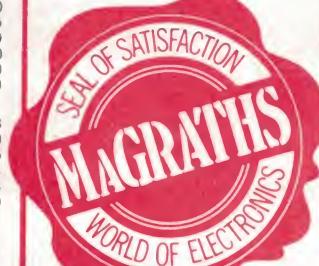
POSITIVE	PRICE	PRICE	
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78H05SC 5 VOLT 5 AMP		\$10.07	
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NEGATIVE			
7905 5 VOLT 1.5 AMP	.95		
7906 6 VOLT 1.5 AMP	.95		
7908 8 VOLT 1.5 AMP	.95		
7912 12 VOLT 1.5 AMP	.95		
7915 15 VOLT 1.5 AMP	.95		
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LM337K NEG. 1.2 TO 37VOLT		\$5.64	
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SH1605 SWITCHING 3 TO 30VOLT		\$14.01	
78QUC POS. 1 AMP 4 TERM. ADJ.		\$1.86	
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FROM  
MAGRATHS



MC/MAG/193P



# WIDEBAND CRO

Jon Fairall

## Two channels, 45 MHz and no complications

ACCORDING TO THE MANUAL the Hung Chung OS-645 was developed in reply to requirements for an oscilloscope that could be used to troubleshoot high speed electronic equipment. It has a claimed bandwidth of 45 MHz and an extra bright screen to allow the display of very fast waveforms.

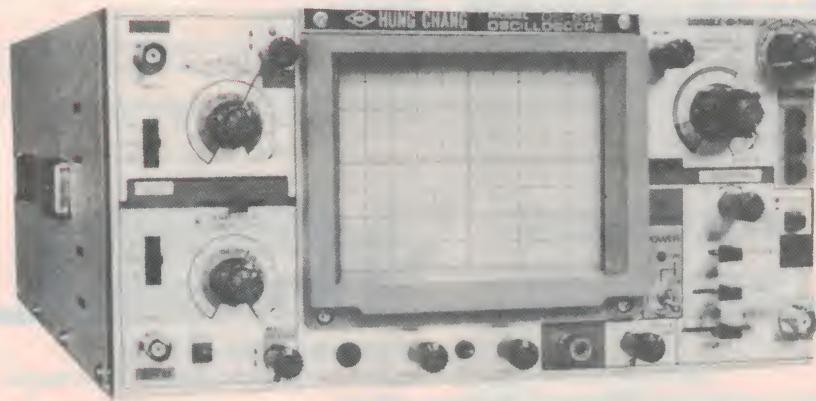
The first thing one notices about the '645 is that it is a nicely laid out unit, with all the controls exactly where one would expect them. This is a big plus if only because it means it's not necessary to read the manual in order to display a waveform and use it to troubleshoot. In fact the front panel is virtually identical to the very popular Aaron oscilloscope.

Of course if you do read the manual the theory is that you should then be in a position to operate the equipment to the full extent of its capability. With the Hung Chung however that is not quite the case. It proved to be easier to experiment with the unit itself than to try to decipher the Honda English in the manual. This is particularly true of the Delay function, which proved almost impossible to understand, but thankfully, operates in a reasonably straightforward fashion.

Not that the manual is totally useless. It has block diagrams showing the system operation, and diagrams showing the position and function of all the set-up pots. There is a complete circuit diagram as well as a comprehensive parts list. There is even a lengthy section on the operation of the CRO. Unfortunately, there is an inverse relationship between the number of words on the page and its comprehensibility. Such is life.

The two channels on the OS-645 can be operated individually, or in chop, dual or add mode, as one would expect. The chop frequency is about 200 kHz. Vertical deflection can be switched in ten steps between one volt per cm and 0.001 volt per cm. This range can be extended by a x5 switch, so allowing five volts to 5 mV.

I would have wished for more on the top end of this scale. Most CROs can manage at least 10 V per cm. This gives the ability to display 80 V directly on the screen and 600 V with the aid of a x10 probe. In general workshop operation this seems to give the required degree of flexibility. As it is, one is limited to 40 V on the screen.



There is also an absolute limit of 600 V on the input of the OS-645.

This need not be an overwhelming objection however, if one is primarily engaged in troubleshooting boards at standard logic levels where the most you will ever need is the ability to display five volts. Rarely perhaps, you may need to look at a transformer primary, and you can do that easily enough with a x10 probe.

I didn't have any equipment that could reliably test the manufacturers claims for high speed performance, so I had to content myself with some impressionistic figures gained by feeding the '645 a sine wave from the HP 8645B signal generator in our lab. Since this has a claimed frequency range of 10 MHz to 520 MHz I would assume any attenuation effects are due to limiting of the CRO and not the generator.

On this basis the CRO started to roll off at 17 MHz. I measured the 3 dB point at 31 MHz. At 45 MHz the signal is 5.2 dB down. In an effort to improve these figures I played around a bit with the most obvious source of high frequency attenuation, namely the leads. The best CRO leads I could lay my hands on were the TEK P6106 pair we have in the lab. Capacitance is rated at 13 pF. Nothing I did would bring the 3 dB point up, so I would hazard a guess that the manufacturer is being just a wee bit optimistic in his claims.

To compensate though, the manual underrates the high frequency performance of the trigger circuit. This is claimed to be 80 MHz, but I was able to measure a waveform running at 92 MHz. The trigger circuit is also respectably responsive to very short pulses. I set up our Wavetek to output a 1kHz squarewave and then proceeded to shorten the pulse length until I lost triggering. As it happened the CRO outperformed the Wavetek. There was always some setting on which it was possible to find the pulse, even when I shortened it as much as possible, i.e:

## SPECIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE

150 mm CRT screen

15 KV accelerating voltage.

CH-A, CH-B, Dual, Add, Chop and X-Y modes.

Claimed Bandwidth (3 dB) = 45 MHz.

Note: x5 multiplier operational in the vertical amplifier claimed bandwidth = 10 MHz

Input impedance 1M; 20pF.

Maximum input voltage 600 V

Delay line: 120 nS

Maximum triggering frequency = 80 MHz

Weight 9.8 kg

Size: 145 x 280 x 422 mm

to 10 nS. At this speed you need the brightness turned right up and the x5 expansion out, but you can still see the pulse tip.

The brightness of the trace was another thing that pleased me. Hung Chang have gone to a 15 kV accelerating voltage for the screen and it shows in a nice bright screen, even at high frequencies. In fact the only time I ran into brightness problems was the incident mentioned above, when I was trying to see an extremely small pulse with the timebase fully extended. Certainly there are no problems using the full deflection of the screen at the highest bandwidth.

It is possible to externally modulate the brightness of the CRO through the Z input on the back panel. (Why it has become traditional to put the Z input on the back panel is beyond me. Are CROs designed by gorillas?) The Z input is set at TTL levels with positive voltage leading to a brighter display, and visa versa. The bandwidth is set at 1 MHz.

In short the OS-645 strikes me as good value for money, especially if you need the ability to display waveforms up to 20 MHz. It retails from Rod Irving Electronics at 425 High Street, Northcote Vic 3070 for \$1045 including tax.

# MAKE A GIFT FROM A KIT

The joy of giving is enhanced when they know you've made it yourself.

## HOUSE ALARM KIT - ETI 582

This great kit was released by ETI back in 1977. To make it easier for the constructor we have joined the two PCB's together and added a power supply on the one board.

### SPECIFICATIONS

**Types of inputs** Silent entry, perimeter circuits, internal circuits, emergency circuits.

**Silent entry** Single circuit, 30 second exit delay, 30 second entry delay.

**Perimeter circuits** 7 circuits, N/C contacts can be expanded in units of 4.

**Internal circuits** 4 circuits, N/C contacts, can be expanded in units of 4. Any number of N/O circuits.

**Emergency circuits** Any number of N/O circuits. These circuits are active even if perimeter and internal circuits are switched off.

**Current drain and battery life (type 732)** Emergency only 2.5mA (4000 hours); Alarm active 9mA (2000 hours); Alarm sounding 500mA (10 hours).

**Alarm time** 12 minutes

All components are supplied, including mains transformer, lead, terminal strip, nuts and bolts, but no case. See ETI July/August, 1977.

Cat. KE-4032

**ONLY \$59.95  
(HORN EXTRA)**



## MICROBOTS® BACK!!

We have secured another shipment of the two most popular Micro Robot kits.

### PIPER MOUSE

This 'microbot' is powered by 2 DC motors that drive wheels. When special ultrasonic whistle is blown, the unit goes left, right, straight ahead according to your command. Complete, including perspex dome cover! Be a Pied Piper!

Cat. KJ-6680

**\$34.95 - SAVE \$5.00**

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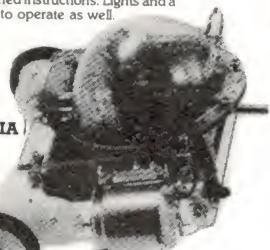
This robot is controlled by a keyboard (which is supplied). The keyboard plugs into the robot. Up to 256 discrete commands can be entered into the robots memory (RAM). The robot will then move according to programmed instructions. Lights and a buzzer can also be programmed to operate as well.

Cat. KJ-6686

**\$69.95 -**

**SAVE \$10.00**

SEE REVIEW IN  
ELECTRONICS AUSTRALIA  
MARCH 1984



Ref: EA October 1984

Jaycar and EA have come up with the best value Oscilloscope on the market today - **IN A KIT...**

Over the years many people have asked, "Do you have a CRO kit?" Our answer - up until now - has been that built and tested units were no dearer than kits, if you could get a kit at all.

The Jaycar KJ-7050 Cathode Ray Oscilloscope kit has a guaranteed 5MHz bandwidth but should go to around 6.5MHz. It also features 75mm (3") CRT Blue Phosphor with accurate graticule, separate vertical and horizontal BNC type input sockets etc. Remember, a 5MHz 'scope is usually adequate to troubleshoot most microprocessor and other digital circuitry as well!

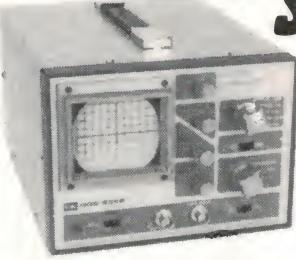
This is a wonderful opportunity to learn electronics AND end up with a valuable piece of test equipment as well.

The Jaycar KJ-7050 kit is absolutely complete. The chassis is pre-punched and every component including nuts and screws are provided, along with instructions.

Cat. KJ-7050

**ONLY \$229**

## OSCILLOSCOPE SENSATION!



## MUSICOLOR IV

REF: EA AUGUST 1981

The ultimate in lighting controllers. Combines a brand new four channel version of the famous EA Musicolor sound-to-light effect with four channel chaser. This new Musicolor has a host of features rarely seen even on expensive commercial units: ★ Front panel LED display ★ four different chaser patterns ★ auto and manual reverse chase ★ sound-triggered chase ★ inbuilt electret microphone ★ safe, opto-isolated circuitry. And just look at the price!

Cat. KA-1010

**\$89.90**



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Cat. KJ-6531

**FROM \$225**



## KAISE DIGITAL MULTIMETER SK 6100

Check the specifications/features of this superb Digital Multimeter.

- Autoranging with manual override
- Auto polarity displays - sign when probes reversed
- Overrange indication "Blink" and buzzer warning
- Low battery warning BATT sign shows
- Sampling rate 2 times second
- Power supply 2 x A penlight batteries (300 hours continuous operation)
- Fuse protected, spare fuse provided
- Zero adjustment, zero adjust button - a must if you change test probes
- LCD display, magnificent clear readout
- Inbuilt buzzer, available for continuity test, overload warning and switch warning
- Ranges ±1000V DC/600V AC, AC and DC current, resistance 200 (resolution 0.1 ohm) to 2000K ohm (resolution 1K ohm) in 5 ranges autoranging
- Accuracy 0.5% DC, 0.8% AC

Cat. QM-1525

**\$59.95**



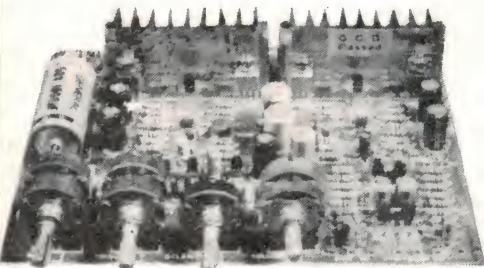
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**ONLY \$39.95**



Cat. AA-0300



**FULL 90 DAY WARRANTY**  
**★ NEW IMPROVED MODEL ★**  
As reviewed in Electronics Australia Oct 1982 & Electronics Today International Nov 1982

Cat. XC-2010

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**SPARE FLOW SENSORS** To avoid problems when changing cars, why not buy a spare fuel flow sensor? They are about the only thing that can wear out.

Cat. XC-2036 ONLY \$29.50

The Voyager is available from the following dealers at your convenience.

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\$125  
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QUIET OPERATION**  
**SENSATIONAL  
PRINTER!!**

25% Faster than all those Fax80/  
DP80/BT80 etc.etc.ETC 80's

**\$379**

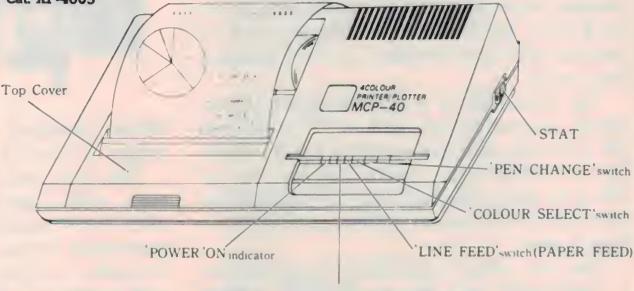
**FEATURES.** ★ Extra fast 100 characters per second ★ 192 ASCII characters (96 standard, 96 italic) ★ Bit image graphics ★ Friction and sprocket paper feed (100mm to 254mm paper) ★ Columns - normal/80, condensed/142, enlarged/40, condensed double width/71, elite/96, enlarged elite/48. ★ Logic seeking - bidirectional.

Cat. XP-4630

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**\$299  
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\$169  
\$149**

Cat. XP-4605



Cat. XP-4606 Spare Paper Rolls \$3.30  
Cat. XP-4607 Set of 4 Pens \$7.50

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The Brandleaders in Auto Electronics

**SPARKRITE  
SX2000**      **ONLY \$59**

Reactive Discharge electronics combining all the advantages of both Inductive and Capacitive Discharge for maximum spark performance. Fits all 12V negative earth vehicles utilising coil and contact breaker ignition.

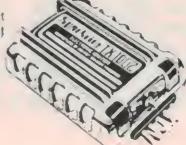
Cat. KJ-6650

**SPARKRITE TX1002**

An Inductive Discharge System which can be used with existing contact breakers or with the Hall Effect Triggerhead system. A top quality unit from the U.K.

Cat. KJ-6651

**ONLY \$79**



**SPARKRITE  
TX2002**

**SPARKRITE  
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**VALUE AT \$99**

**\$115**



This unique alarm does not need holes to be drilled in your car's body - a special sensor pad is attached to the inside of your windscreen and you gain entry through your own programmed magnetic key fob. The sensor pad even flashes a light when your code has been accepted and the code can be reprogrammed at any time.

Cat. KJ-6660

**EA WIDEBAND AM TUNER** - Ref. EA Dec/Jan 1982/1983

This is a true broad-bandwidth superhet design AM tuner kit suited most admirably to Australia. Jaycar have produced a superb kit that includes a pre-punched cabinet.

Cat. KA-1498 **ONLY \$249**

**Alignment kit for EA Tuner** - Cat. KA-1515 **ONLY \$7.95**

**QCAM STEREO DECODER KIT** - Ref. EA October 1984  
Set of parts for this project including PCB, 10uH choke, MOC13020 IC, (Whistle filter coil extra - Cat. EE-3814 ONLY \$19.95)

Cat. KA-1555 **ONLY \$19.95**

## AT LAST! LOW COST TELEPHONE EXTENSION CORDS!



**Telephone socket**

**double adaptor**

Cat. YT-6020 **\$19.95**

Suitable for PABX (10 metre length)

**20 metre extension cord**

Cat. YT-6014 **\$24.95**

**10 metre extension cord**

Cat. YT-6012 **\$19.95**

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Cat. YT-6010 **\$14.95**

## SCOOP PURCHASE of 4 COLOUR PRINTER / PLOTTERS!!

Jaycar has done it again! We have made a scoop purchase of 4 colour printer/plotters at a never-to-be repeated price!! The SAME printer has sold elsewhere for up to \$299 but currently sells for as low as \$169. At \$169 it is an absolute bargain! (See specs). Now Jaycar can offer you the SAME printer for \$149!! How do we do it? We have bought BELOW IMPORTERS COST and have passed the SAVINGS on to you!

QUANTITIES STRICTLY LIMITED. We have less than 80 pcs in stock at the time of going to press. To avoid disappointment, we suggest that you ACT QUICKLY.

The printer/plotter is supplied with mains lead, a roll of paper 114mm x 55m long (4.5" x 180') and a set of 4 pens (black, blue, red & green). Spare rolls and pens are available from other major electronic suppliers and for a short time, us



**Jaycar**  
**ELECTRONICS**

SEE OUR OTHER ADS FOR ADDRESS PANEL AND OTHER INFORMATION — PAGES 25 & 85

# COMPACT CRO

— 20 MHz, dual trace.

**Jim Rowe**

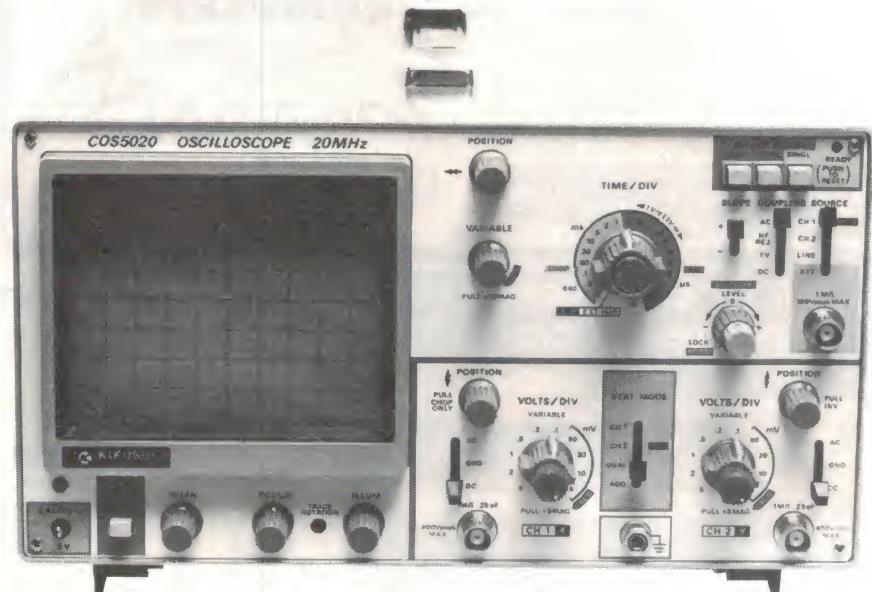
The Kikusui Model COS5020 oscilloscope is a compact dual trace instrument offering 20 MHz bandwidth in each channel, together with all the usual facilities. It has a flat 100 x 80 mm screen and comes complete with two switched and compensated test probes.

THE KIKUSUI Electronics corporation of Japan has been making measuring instruments for many years, but in Australia at least they seemed to 'go quiet' for a while. Their new model COS5020 dual trace oscilloscope seems set to bring the Kikusui name back into prominence, offering a lot of features and performance at a very competitive price.

The COS5020 is a very compact instrument, measuring only 285 x 175 x 440 mm (W x H x D) with a mass of 7.1 kg. Yet it offers a screen with a useful display area of 100 x 80 mm, together with all the facilities you'd normally expect in this kind of laboratory 'scope.

The two vertical amplifier channels offer a bandwidth of dc — 20 MHz within -3 dB, with a sensitivity of 5 mV/division and for displayed signal amplitudes as large as 80 mm p-p. The upper corner frequency of both channels falls to 15 MHz when the x5 multiplier switch is engaged, giving a sensitivity of 1 mV/div. Rise times are 17.5 ns for the normal settings and 23 ns for the x5 settings. Vertical linearity is quoted as better than 0.1 of a division for a waveform of 2 div p-p moved to either limit. Both channels have attenuators which switch from 5 mV — 5 v/div in the usual 1-2-5 sequence. Input impedance is 1 M in parallel with 22 pF.

Vertical display modes provided are CH1, CH2, dual and CH1+CH2 (algebraic addition). In the dual mode, switching is chopped (at approximately 250 kHz) for sweep speeds up to 1 ms/div, normally changing to alternate traces for higher sweep speeds. However a 'chop only' switch



allows chopping to be used for all sweep ranges if desired.

The time base is of the fully triggered type, with ranges from 0.5 s/div to 200 ns/div. A x10 magnification switch allows the maximum sweep speed to be increased to 20 ns/div. All the normal triggering modes and facilities are provided, including 'auto' and single shot. Internal triggering sensitivity is better than 1.5 minor divisions up to 20 MHz, with external sensitivity of less than 200 mV p-p.

The COS5020 is fitted with an integral graticule flat-face rectangular CRT, running with 2.2 kV of acceleration voltage. This gives a very bright, crisp trace even at the fastest sweep speeds. A 'trace rotation' screwdriver adjustment is provided to allow accurate matching of the traces to the graticule axes. Also provided is a 'calibrate' output providing a 1 kHz squarewave signal at 2 V p-p.

All input connections on the COS5020 are via standard BNC-type sockets, including the Z-axis input at the rear. For convenience the instrument comes with both screw-terminal adaptors for the vertical inputs, and a pair of switched x1/x10 test probes. The probes are compensated, with

## SPECIFICATIONS AT A GLANCE

100 mm x 80 mm screen  
2.2 kV accelerating voltage  
CH1, CH2, Dual Add, Chop and X-Y mode; claimed bandwidth 20 MHz.  
15 MHz with x 5 multiplier  
Input impedance — 1 M/22 pF.  
Weight 7.1 kg  
Size: 285 x 175 x 440 mm

trimmers built into the BNC plug shells; they also have screw-on hook adaptors and clip-on earth leads. With many instruments, these would cost you \$30-\$40 extra.

A quick check of the sample instrument pictured showed that it met the quoted specs easily, and performed very smoothly. It also seemed to be very sturdily made. The only fault we could find, and it's a very minor one, is that the illumination for the screen graticule is rather uneven. But all in all, the instrument seems to us very good value indeed for the quoted price of \$625.25 including tax.

The Kikusui COS5020 is available from Geoff Wood Electronics Pty Ltd, 656A Darling Street, Rozelle 2039. (02)810-6845. •

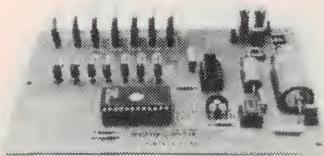
# VELLEMAN KITS

HIGH QUALITY KITS AND MODULES FOR AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL APPLICATIONS

**Light effects:**

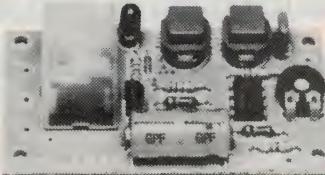
K1874 — 4 channel running light  
 K2588 — 3 channel sound to light with pre-amp  
 K2590 — 7 channel light computer  
 K2601 — strobe light  
 K2602 — 4 channel running light and modulator  
**Audio:**  
 K611 — 7 watt amplifier  
 K1771 — FM oscillator  
 K1798 — stereo VU using LED's  
 K1804 — 60 watt amplifier  
 K2572 — stereo pre-amplifier  
 K2582 — stereo audio input selector  
 K2606 — LED audio power meter

\$39.24	K2557 — 3 digit precision thermometer	\$59.33
\$51.68	K2574 — 4 digit up/down counter	\$87.23
\$80.39	K2577 — universal AC motor control	\$29.70
\$31.58	K2579 — start/stop timer	\$21.34
\$47.85	K2585 — code-lock (40 x 6 digit numbers)	\$127.60
	K2594 — zero cross programmable timer	\$29.67
\$21.53	K2623 — lab power supply 0-24V DC @ 3A	\$73.69
\$21.53	K2565 — auto slide/cassette controller	\$30.15
\$44.98	K2567 — 20cm display, common anode	\$47.85
\$49.76	K2584 — 4 digit precision timer	\$124.35
\$23.93	K2591 — programmable control module	\$108.58
\$39.72	K2625 — digital rev counter	\$57.54
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 THE VELLEMAN INTERFACE SYSTEM  
 FOR THE COMMODORE 64,  
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START/STOP TIMER

## INTERFACE CARDS NOW AVAILABLE IN KIT FORM

K2629 — CMOS real time clock and RAM  
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\*SALES TAX INCLUDED: Add \$3.50 Freight charge per order.

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 K2611 — opto input board  
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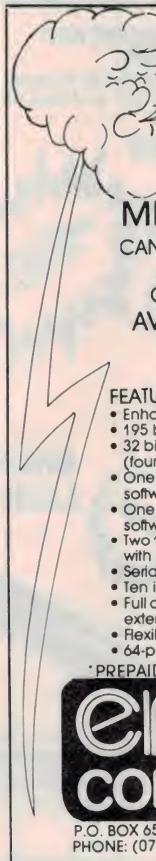
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 AVAILABLE EX-STOCK  
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**FEATURES:**

- Enhanced R6502 CPU.
- 195 byte static RAM.
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★ PLUS \$5.00  
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## THE DAZZLING MUSICOLOR IV PROJECT



Combination Colour Organ and Light Chaser. Four channel colour organ. Internal micro-phone or connect to speakers for colour organ operation. The lights connected to each channel pulse in beat to the music proportional to portion of frequency spectrum concerned! Four chaser modes forward and reverse. Output lamp load capacity a massive 2400 watts — that's 100 party globes. Full instructions and every last nut and bolt included. Great for parties, shop signs, display windows etc.

K5800 ..... \$89.50

**Dear Customer,** At Altronics we are continually trying out methods of improving our range of quality products and the high standard of service we offer our Shop, Mail and Phone order customers. I believe our future prosperity will be a direct reflection of the standards of service we have adopted. So for November and December 84 we pledge that if you find our products and/or service is not as we claim you may return your purchase to us for a full refund plus \$5.00 for your inconvenience (mail/phone order customers please allow transportation costs)

Regards

Jack O'Donnell

## MICROWAVE OVEN LEAK DETECTOR

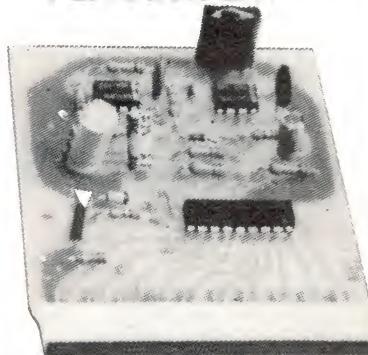


### ETI PROJECT

Completely passive project receives microwaves via an antenna which develops a voltage across a detector diode driving the meter. Monitor your microwave oven with this easy to build kit. All components mount on single PCB, including the meter. Genuine Hewlett Packard Hot Carrier Diode supplied.

K1724..... (still only) \$14.50

## LED BARGRAPH PEAK DISPLAY



This easy to build level meter uses our exclusively imported LED bargraph module which gives it a very professional finish indeed. Indicates from -21dB to +6dB using a logarithmic scale. **Great Value!**

K 5412 ..... \$16.50

## ★ KIT SUPPORT FOR THE MICROBEE ★

MICROBEE IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY PTY LTD

### MULTIPROM INTERFACE

44K OF PROGRAM STORAGE



A sensational new kit for the MICROBEE, requires no modification to the computer except for the fitting of a 50 pin expansion socket. This project is easy to build and will allow you to store and software select up to 44K ofeprom storage — acts like a mini disk drive system with the speed of RAM. Extra units may be added to further increase storage.

#### THE MICROBEE® KIT OF 1984

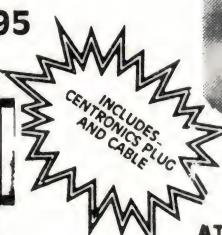
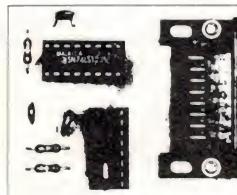
K9673. .... \$99.50

### PARALLEL INTERFACE

#### BUILD YOUR OWN INTERFACE AND SAVE \$\$\$

A simple kit to build — takes about 20 minutes, save on the cost of a built interface and save the cost of a serial printer.

K9671. .... \$29.95



### PROPORTIONAL JOYSTICK



SELF  
CENTERING

K9674  
\$32.50  
(ETI DEC 83)

FOR THE  
BEE!

**AT LAST AN ANALOGUE JOYSTICK**  
Plot X-Y co-ordinates on the screen, sign your name. A great graphics aid. Complete kit including case, software example.

### EPROM PROGRAMMER

(ETI JAN 83)



K9668. .... \$55.00

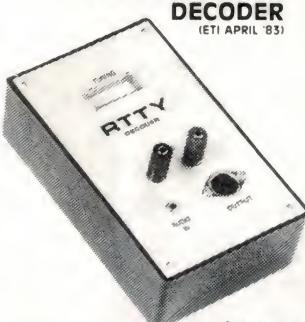
Versatile, low cost and easy to build. Plugs straight into the microbee I/O port. Suitable for 2716, 2732, 2532, 2732A and 2764 Eproms. Burn your game programmes and eliminate cassette loading times.

**KIT FEATURES** Sockets for all other IC's. 1 x 2716 supplied — get started straight away. Front Panel and Mains ISEC approved transformer. 28 pin and 16 pin wire wrap sockets to flush mount personality plugs (2 included) and 2IF socket (includes DB15 Plug). Complete to last nut and bolt.

(See Review ETI AUGUST 1983)

### RADIOTELETYPewriter DECODER

(ETI APRIL 83)



K9733. .... \$19.50

Display RTTY encoded messages on your Video Monitor. Receive up to date weather information, International News before the papers, all sorts of coded military info. Simple Circuits use PLL techniques. Single PCB Construction. Kit includes DB15 Plug and backshell for connection to microbee. Shielded printed PCB.

### MICROBEE LIGHT PEN

(ETI AUGUST 83)



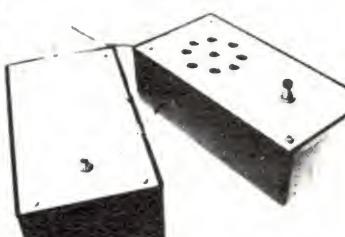
PROVIDES DIRECT PERSONAL  
CONTACT WITH YOUR BEE!

K9649. .... \$19.95

AT LAST — a light pen for the Bee. This pen works in the low-resolution graphics mode and connects directly to the I/O port. • Complete kit including DB15 2m CORD • Fully documented with software example

### FAX-DECODER

(ETI SEPT. 83)



K 9763 ..... \$24.50

This project allows you to decode the signals of shortwave stations transmitting radio facsimile, weather maps, satellite pictures etc and then reproduce them on your dot-matrix printer. • Complete kit of parts includes DB15 Ribbon Cable • SOFTWARE LISTING

## 7 DIGIT FREQUENCY COUNTER



### UNBELIEVABLE 0.005% ACCURACY

\* Frequency and Period measurement to 500 MHz (with optional prescaler) \* High Input sensitivity. Professional unit at a fraction of the cost of built up units.  
 \* IC sockets provided throughout \* Low age rate 10,000 MHz XTAL \* Quality ABS plastic case with deluxe front panel \* Specified LSI.

K2500..... \$119.50

### PRESCALER

K2501..... \$26.00

### DECIMAL POINT

K2502..... \$7.50



### VIDEO AMPLIFIER

Brilliant new kit from EA. Super cheap and Super Effective. Whilst our K5830 is suitable primarily for VCR use this video amplifier is best suited to use with computers. The EA documentation supplied is extremely well written and provides details for installation into television sets.

**NO MORE SMEARY COLOURS, SIGNAL BEATS OR RF INTERFERENCE**

K5850..... \$14.95



### VIDEO ENHANCER

Here's a simple but effective Video Enhancer that is super easy to build at a fraction of the cost of commercial models.

Unit sharpens picture detail, and can actually improve the quality of a copy by amplifying the top end of the video signal.

### AT LAST A VIDEO ENHANCER KIT

K5825..... \$35.00

### VIDEO RF MODULATOR

(SEE ETI OCT 1981)



If you cannot afford a Video Monitor for your computer this is the kit for you. Super stable oscillator design and very low modulation distortion \* Works with both B & W and Colour TV sets \* Suitable for computers, TV games, TV pattern generators or what have you. Deluxe kit featuring heavy duty diecast box for RF shielding \* Input and output sockets.

K 9760..... \$17.50

## FUNCTION GENERATOR



The most essential piece of test gear (second only to a good multimeter) on any hobbyist's bench is some kind of audio signal generator. This design utilizes the latest circuit techniques to produce stable, low distortion waveforms.

### A truly versatile unit at a bargain price.

\* 4 digit frequency readout (eliminates tiresome dial calibration) — typical accuracy  $\pm 2\%$  \* 3 overlapping ranges x1, x10, x100 \* 600 OHM Nominal Output — continuously variable 3MV — 2.5V P-P \* Distortion — sinewave : less than 0.7% @ 1KHz \* Linearity — triangle wave: better than 1% @ 1KHz \* Squarewave rise time — 6V/uS maximum output \* Amplitude stability — better than 0.1dB on all ranges.

K2505..... \$85.00

## DIGITAL CAPACITANCE METER



### NEW DELUXE FINISH

We are pleased to announce the release of the Digital Capacitance Kit housed in our Deluxe H0480 ABS Instrument Case. This superb Test Instrument Kit now complements our top selling Digital Frequency Counter and Function Generator Project Kit. Electronics Australia Project. Measures capacitance of both polarized and non-polarized capacitors from 1 picofarad to 99.99 microfarads in 3 ranges. Check values of unmarked capacitors, especially those little trimmers that are never coded. Select precise values for filters and timing networks within ease.

### \* EXCLUSIVE TO ALTRONICS \*

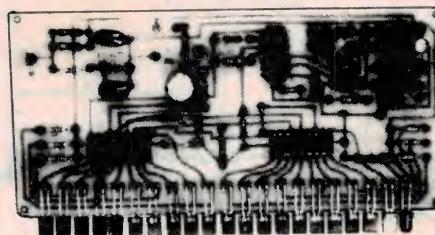
Each kit includes precision measured capacitors for accurate calibration of each range.

K2521..... \$55.00

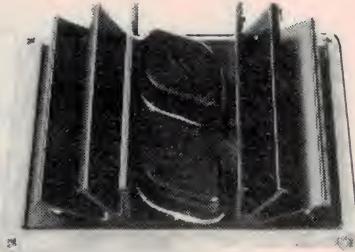
## MONITOR AND IMPROVE VEHICLE PERFORMANCE

### TWIN RANGE LED TACHO

(SEE ETI AUGUST 1980)



### TRANSISTOR ASSISTED IGNITION WITH DWELL EXTENSION



Unit suitable for 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 8 cylinder vehicles, 2 stroke or 4 stroke \* fully compatible with conventional, CDI and transistorized ignition systems \* includes protection circuitry to prevent noise and high voltage spikes from the points and coil circuit damaging the electronics. \*

Display flashes when over-revving occurs \* only 3 connections required to electrical system.

*Check The Performance of Your Vehicle  
At A Glance!*

K4324..... \$24.50

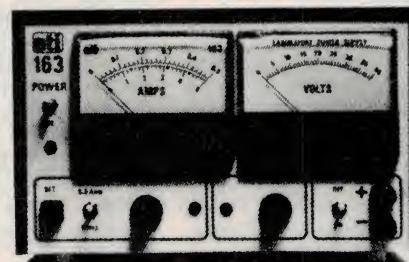
The Altronics Kit includes all components for the modifications, detailed by Electronics Australia Feb. 1983.

Yes, it's bad enough paying \$2.00 a gallon for petrol without wasting a fortune on an out of tune engine. Fit this transistor assisted ignition kit in minutes and start saving money from the very next petrol stop. Easy to build!

K4010..... \$35.00

## 0-40 VOLT / 5 AMP LAB SUPPLY

(SEE ETI MAY & JUNE 1983)



FEATURING: VARIABLE CURRENT LIMIT - DUAL METERING

A Laboratory Supply requires specifications second to none. This Supply has them!

Output voltage	0-40 V. variable
Output current	0-0.5 A. variable limiting
Output regulation	<50 mV at up to 2.5 A
Maximum output power	<100 mW up to 5 A
Metering	200 watts
Voltage	0-40 V in 1 V divisions
Current	0-0.5 A in 20 mA divisions
	0-5 A in 200 mA divisions

Series regulator design enables design and development of sensitive high gain audio and RF circuitry free from hum and noise sometimes associated with other techniques.

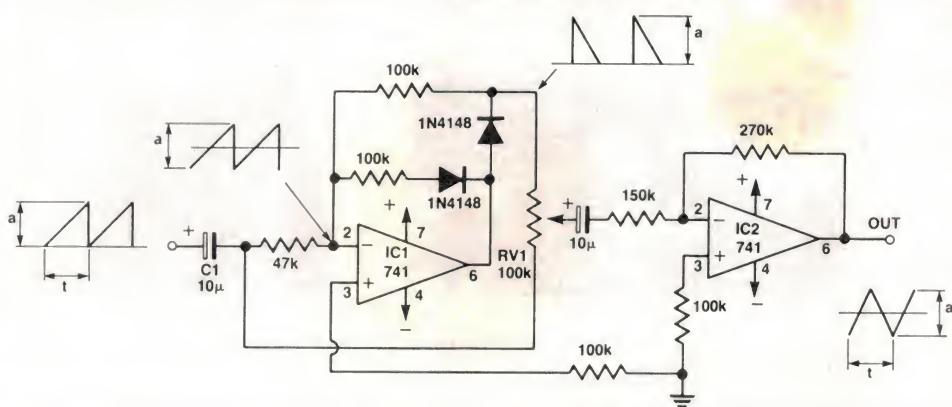
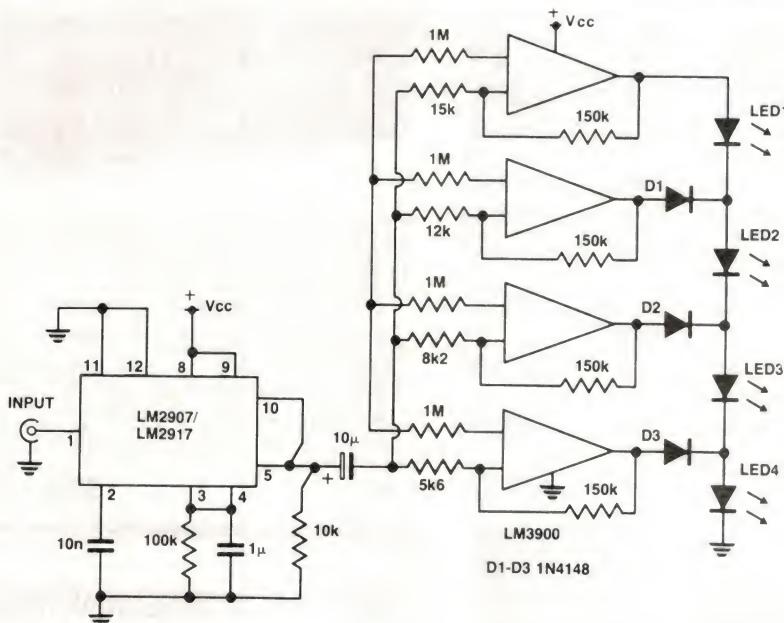
K3325..... \$175.00

# IDEAS FOR EXPERIMENTERS

## Bargraph display

The advantage of measuring an audio signal with its frequency and not its volume is that the LEDs aren't affected by the loudness of the output. This means that they will work just as well at any volume. This simple circuit from M. Sorel of Clarence Park, SA, has just two ICs. The LM2907/2917 is a frequency-to-voltage converter.

The LM3900 is a quad Norton op-amp, used as the level-indicator. Capacitor C1 may be changed to suit the voltage or desired range. Red LEDs should be used, and should be as similar as possible. The voltage range is 5 to 25 V. This circuit is small enough to fit inside most equipment.



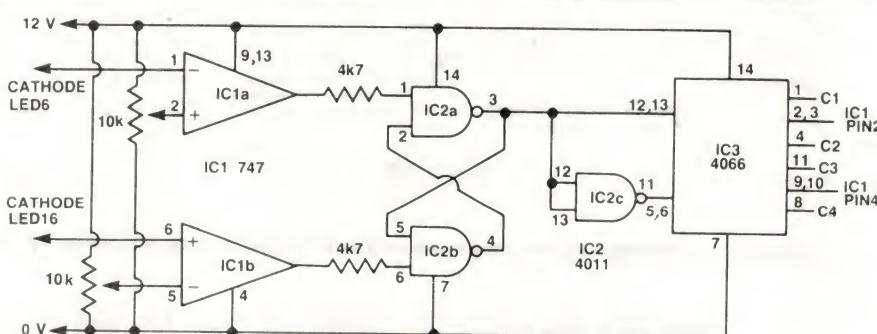
## Sawtooth-to-triangle wave converter

This circuit from Justin Roff-Marsh of Esk, Qld, converts a sawtooth waveform to a triangle wave of the same frequency.

Any offset voltage is removed by C1. The circuit around IC1 removes the positive part of the waveform, the negative being inverted and multiplied by two. RV1 and IC2 mix the waveform after C1 with the rectified, inverted and doubled waveform. RV1 is adjusted for a correctly shaped output. This can either be done with an oscilloscope, or it can be adjusted by ear for the purest output tone.

The input waveform can either have slow attack or slow decay, but for good results the flyback time should be as low as possible (anything below about 20 μs is inaudible).

This circuit can be used as a linear fullwave rectifier for any waveform. If the input is a triangle wave it functions as a frequency doubler.



## Tacho modification

Bill Kennan of West Heidelberg, Victoria, sent us this modification to the LED tacho project (ETI-324) we published in August 1980.

To increase the flexibility of the unit it has two ranges, one for low speed, one for high. There is a manual switching facility that allows the operator to choose between the two. Mr Keenan's idea does away with this manual switch.

Flying leads from the cathodes of LEDs 6 and 16 are fed to the inputs of the dual 747 com-

parator. Their voltage levels are compared to the preset voltages produced by RV1 and RV2. RV1 adjusts the low revs and RV2 the high range.

The outputs are fed to the 4011, wired as a flipflop. The Q and Q output from here are fed to the 4066, wired as a DPDT switch, which eliminates the switch in the original circuit.



# MAKE A GIFT FROM A KIT

The joy of giving is enhanced when they know you've made it yourself



## RAILMASTER KIT

REF: EA SEPTEMBER 1984

This is the most up to date train controller kit we've seen in a long time. It offers all those wanted features including inertia, full overload protection and walk around throttle. Kit includes front panel, correct console box and all parts.

Cat. KA-1560

**\$79.95**

## DIESEL SOUND SIMULATOR WITH LIGHTING CIRCUIT FOR RAILMASTER

REF: EA NOVEMBER 1984

You will be amazed how authentic this kit sounds. Kit includes PCB and all parts for sound effects as well as all the components for the lighting circuit.

Cat. KA-1561

**\$19.95**

## NEW KIT ELECTRONIC CROSSOVER

REF: EA NOVEMBER 1984

This much sought after kit is now finally available. The unit is for stereo with 2 crossover points for each channel for 3 way speakers.

Commercial units are almost double the price.

Kit comes complete with silk screened track front panel and quality English made Lorlin switches.

Cat. KA-1570

**\$199**



## BRAKE LAMP FLASHER

This little device will flash accessory brake lights three times when the brake pedal is depressed. If you've had a rear end collision you will know how handy this device is.

PCB and components only.

Cat. KA-1564

**\$16.50**



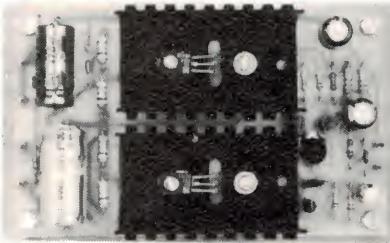
## 20 WATT LOW COST AMPLIFIER

Ref. EA NOVEMBER 1984

This amplifier module uses only a handful of parts and is simple to build. Kit includes pre-drilled heatsinks which mount on the board.

Cat. KA-1567

**\$17.50**



## NEW - "HI-TECH" WALL POSTERS

A departure from our area of electronic hardware, but we think that you will be as impressed as we were when you see these magnificent posters. Shown below are descriptions of a small range of posters. We may increase this range depending on the response.

**BOEING 767 COCKPIT** A magnificent wide-angle view of a new Boeing 767 flight deck on the tarmac at dusk. The photograph is taken from the entrance to the flight deck. In the foreground is a clear view of the new all-electronic instrumentation which is a feature of this aircraft. On the far right is the engineer's console. A typical airport runway can be seen through the pilot's windscreen. Full technical specs appear on the bottom edge of the 530(H)x825(W)mm poster, which is printed in full colour on art paper.

Cat. BP-9210 **\$5.95**

**SR-71 "BLACKBIRD" Reconnaissance aircraft** This is a superb front-on shot of the super-secret SR-71 standing on a remote runway. The photograph clearly illustrates the very low Cd of this aircraft, which can fly higher and faster than virtually any other. A truly remarkable example of High-Tech despite the fact that it was designed many years ago now. Once again, full 530(H)x825(W) colour. (The aircraft is painted black).

Cat. BP-9212 **\$5.95**

**"LAMBORGHINI"** How could you ever be upstaged in a Lambo? Well if you haven't got the \$A200 grand that

one will cost you here you can have a magnificent poster of a red Countach for \$5.95. This 530(H)x825(W)mm poster shows this classic vehicle contemptuously parked across the yellow line of a lonely road.

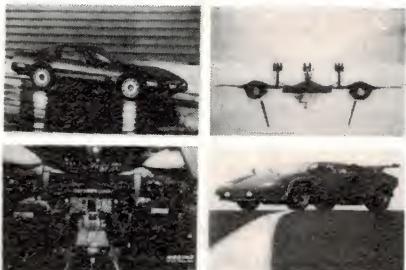
Cat. BP-9214 **\$5.95**

**"CORVETTE"** This is a photograph of the 1984 model Corvette. This model was completely re-engineered and is a major departure from conservative engineering practice. Many European style mechanical features around. It is rumoured that they may arrive in Australia in numbers... We think that it is the best-looking example of the marque yet. The car is painted in black against a red background. 530(H)x825(W)mm.

Cat. BP-9216 **\$5.95**

Buy any 2 of the 4 posters for only

**\$4.95 each!**



**\$199**

## HALL EFFECT SWITCH VANE INTERRUPTED

**\$19.95**

If you have a car that won't take the Jaycar KJ-6655 Hall Effect Kit (i.e. an Australian six or V8) this could be for you!

It is the SIEMENS (German) made Hall Switch. It will operate from -30 to +130°C. A simple soft iron vane cut with appropriate slots will commute the unit.

Cat. HK-2101



PCB to suit  
84T19  
\$3.45

## TRANSISTOR ASSISTED IGNITION HALL EFFECT "BREAKERLESS" VERSION - \$36.95

This kit is virtually identical to the KA-1506 except that it contains the interface electronics for the KJ-6655 Hall Effect Triggerhead.

Cat. KA-1505

## NEW! VANE INTERRUPTED HALL EFFECT SWITCH INTERFACE!

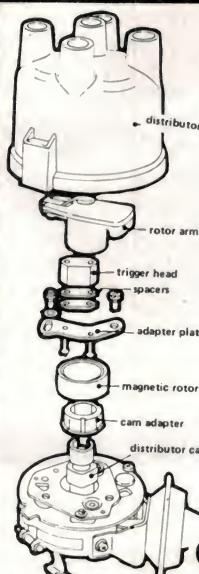
Ref. EA September 1984

This upgrade kit enables you to convert your existing points-type Transistor Assisted Ignition to the new Siemens Vane Interrupted type (i.e. for Australian 6 cylinder & V8's).

The upgrade kit includes new PCB and conversion components. The other components come from your existing TAI.

Cat. KA-1503

**ONLY \$4.95**



**ONLY \$29.95**

## CONTACTLESS HALL EFFECT "BREAKER POINTS"

Ref. EA DECEMBER 1983

A professionally engineered electronic ("breakerless") contact breaker system. Jaycar has the complete Hall Effect triggerhead assembly designed to adapt to an extensive range of cars. Each kit contains the following: ★ Hall Effect triggerhead ★ Magnetic rotors for both 4 and 6 cylinder cars ★ Over 6 cam-lobe adaptors ★ Over 12 different adaptor plates for your particular distributor ★ Other hardware (i.e. screws etc) ★ As easy to install as a set of points ★ Simple instructions for fitting included.

## TRANSISTOR ASSISTED IGNITION \$35

Ref. EA JANUARY 1983

Latest version of this fantastically popular kit! The Jaycar kit comes COMPLETE down to the plastic TO-3 transistor covers, genuine heatsink and diecast box - as used in the original EA unit.

Beware of flimsy kits that use sheetmetal boxes! This kit is designed to be used with contact breaker points, if you want Hall Effect breakerless option may we suggest the KA-1505 listed above.

Cat. KA-1506

## 5000 POWER AMPLIFIER

### "BLACK MONOLITH"

REF: ETI JAN/MARCH 1981



#### COMPLETE "BLACK MONOLITH" KIT ONLY

Cat KE-4200 \$319.00

### "BLUEPRINT"

REF: ETI JUNE/OCTOBER 1981

#### 5000 CONTROL PREAMPLIFIER \$299

FOR THE COMPLETE KIT

Cat KE-4202

### ELECTRIC FENCE

Ref: EA September 1982



Mains or battery powered, this electric fence controller is both inexpensive and versatile. It should prove an adequate deterrent to all manner of livestock. Additionally, its operation conforms to the relevant clauses of Australian standard 3129. (Kit does not include automotive ignition coil which is required).

Cat KA-1109

Latest addition to the thoroughbred 5000 series stable! David Tillbrook has once again produced a 'No Compromise' design. This new component, a  $\frac{1}{2}$  Octave Equaliser, gives you ABSOLUTE CONTROL over the acoustics of your particular listening environment. You get 3 SEPARATE CONTROLS for each and every octave of audio bandwidth to virtually eliminate the subtle nuances that are particular to your listening area.

$\frac{1}{2}$  Octave Equalisers have been used by professional engineers in Recording Studios and live concerts for over a decade now. It is no accident that the advent of the  $\frac{1}{2}$  octave equaliser and studio quality live sound recording have gone hand in hand.

#### BUT FOR YOU THERE'S A CATCH!!

For Hi Fi stereo one of these units is not enough. They are mono so you will need one for each channel. Quite a lot of money really, but worth it if you want the best. Remember that whilst this unit is designed to operate in the 5000 system it will work with other Hi Fi equipment, line level in, line level out.

The Jaycar kit includes a fully pre-punched plated chassis, pre-punched heavy gauge front panel silk-screened to match the other 5000 components. It is absolutely original but includes such refinements as quality IC sockets, UNIBRAKO socket head fixing screws, and brushless-lock toggle switches.

You can purchase the kits one at time at \$1.99 each or, two, \$3.89 - a \$10 saving.

If you are one of the hundreds of happy 5000 users we are convinced that you will be just delighted with this unit.

Cat KE-4204

### 50/500MHz DIGITAL FREQUENCY COUNTER

Ref: EA Dec 1981/Feb 1982

High performance kit that uses just 5 IC's to measure periods and frequencies up to 500MHz. Everything about the Jaycar kit is special from its gold plated BNC input connectors thru to the special pre-punched heavy plastic front panel that is silk screened in epoxy ink. The standard kit works to 50MHz.

Cat KA-1390

**ONLY \$119**

A 500MHz prescaler kit - fits directly onto main circuit board in above unit.

Cat KA-1392

**\$29.50**

### 3-50V/5 AMP VARIABLE \$149 POWER SUPPLY

Ref: EA May/June 1983

A brand new efficient design provides regulated high power. It features state-of-the-art switchmode techniques, dual meters and continuous adjustment. All parts for the kit are provided including specified case, front panel and special meter scales.

Cat KA-1520

This kit represents a massive saving over equivalent built units! ± 12V add-on kit (refer EA July 1983)

Cat KA-1521 \$14.95

### SPECIFICATIONS

SIGNAL TO NOISE	-102dB with respect to 1 Volt
FREQUENCY RESPONSE	12Hz - 105kHz to -1dB
BOOST/CUT	14dB (28dB total)
DISTORTION	100Hz - 0.007%
	1kHz - 0.007%
	10kHz - 0.008%

(essentially irrespective of cut or boost)  
Approx. 100mA @  $\pm 15\%$   
(requires 30V AC CT)  
Output short-circuit proof

FEATURING THE FANTASTIC  
5534 IC AND STATE-OF-THE-ART  
J-FET OP AMPS

**ONLY \$199**

### 12/230V - 300W INVERTER

Cat. KA-1114

This unit provides up to 300VA of power at 235V from an ordinary car battery. It is ideal as a standby AC power supply. The output is voltage regulated, gives a precise 50Hz and has current limiting with ultimate thermal shutdown.

The Jaycar kit features quality conservatively rated components and is complete down to the case and front panel.

REF: EA JUNE 1982

**\$195**

### ★ NEW ★ "SQUEAKY CLEAN" MAINS FILTERS

Two fantastic low cost models. MS-4010 will supply up to 4 appliances. Each 240V socket is isolated from the other, i.e. interference from disc drives is decoupled from the CPU power supply etc. It will supply up to 4 outlets with a total load of 6 amps (unswitched)

Cat. MS-4010

**ONLY \$99**

Single 10 amp line-socket type filter (unswitched).

Cat. MS-4012

**ONLY \$29.95**

**ONLY \$89.50**

Cat KA-1410

### DUAL TRACKING ±22V POWER SUPPLY

Ref: EA March 1982



This versatile dual polarity (dual tracking) power supply kit can provide up to ± 22 volts at up to 2 amps. In addition the supply features a fixed +5V at 0.9A output. The supply is completely protected against short circuits, overloads and thermal runaway. The kit comes complete with case, meter and front panel.

**Jaycar**  
ELECTRONICS

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Concord

Mon-Fri: 9am - 5.30pm; Sat 4pm

Carlingford, Hurstville

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Sydney

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Hurstville

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Burbanka

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- The fabulous Yaesu FT757GX all-band all-mode transceiver: THE radio!
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- V5JR vertical antenna — ready to erect
- 100 metres RG-8 (UR67) Hi-grade co-ax



TOTAL VALUE \$2410<sup>45</sup>

## A complete VHF/UHF amateur radio station — including:

- The magnificent Yaesu FT726R VHF/UHF all mode transceiver
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- Satellite unit giving full cross-banding facilities
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OR

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\*Offer applies only where the advertiser has goods in stock AND can supply at the advertised price. But advertising is illegal under the Trade Practices Act.

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## AND THAT'S NOT ALL!!!

We're also giving away a complete Yaesu FTR-5410 UHF (70cm) amateur repeater, complete with cavities, supply, power amp . . . the lot . . . to the club, group or body nominated by the winner!!!

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that wins this fabulous prize generously donated by Yaesu Musen in the interests of promoting Amateur Radio in Australia!!!

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Every purchaser of ANY item of Yaesu Amateur Radio Equipment from Dick Smith Electronics stores or company authorised re-sellers during December 1984 and January & February 1985 will receive an entry form. Every purchaser.

All you have to do is, in the space provided on the entry form, tell us why your club/group/division/etc would like to win the UHF repeater. It's as simple as that!

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Dick Smith Electronics and Yaesu are proud to sponsor this exciting competition, which has been organised to co-incide with the beginning of the 75th Anniversary Year of the Wireless Institute of Australia.

The WIA is the oldest such body in the world.

Congratulations, WIA, from Yaesu and Dick Smith Electronics.

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A magnificent performer. Normally \$1995.00 – Until Christmas save \$250.00.

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- BUSH FIRE CONTROL
- AG SHOWS
- SECURITY
- CONSTRUCTION SITES
- CAR RALLIES
- CROWD CONTROL AND MANY OTHERS

**FEATURES:**

- 40 channel UHF CB
- Repeater offset CH.1 to CH. 10
- RF output, 2.5W high, 0.6W low
- Illuminated channel selection switch for night operation
- Small in size, big in performance
- Full range of accessories

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

**GENERAL**

Freq. range 476.425-477.400 MHz UHF CB

Freq. control: Digital PLL synthesiser

Type of emission: 16F3

Antenna Impedance 50 ohms

Power supply: 8.4 v ± 15%

Operating temperature: -10 to +60°C

**TRANSMITTER**

Output power: High 2.5W, low: 0.5W at 8.4V

Modulation: Variable reactance FM

Max Deviation: ±5 kHz

Spurious Emission: More than 70 dB below carrier

Microphone: Built in electret condenser mic.

Op Mode: Simp Dup Ch. 1-10, ch 11 to 40 auto simp

**RECEIVER**

Receiving System: Double Conversion Superhet

IF Frequency: 1st: 21.6 MHz, 2nd: 455 kHz

Sensitivity: More than 26dB S + N at 1 uF. Less than 0.5uV for 20dB noise quieting.

Squelch Sensitivity: Less than 0.4uV

Spurious Response Rejection: More than 60dB

Selectivity: More than 7.5 kHz at -60dB point.

Less than +15kHz at -60dB point

AF Output: 400mW Audio Output Impedance: 8 ohms

Spurious Emission: More than -60dBm in 50 ohms



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- ★ Unique split programming system
- ★ Automatic frequency storage
- ★ Priority Channel
- ★ LCD Display
- ★ Programmable Scan/search rate
- ★ 24 Hour clock etc.



**SPECIFICATIONS:**

Freq. Range —  
HF: 26-32 MHz  
VHF: 66-88 MHz (low, 138-176 MHz (high))

UHF: 380-512 MHz

Sensitivity: 0.5 uV 66-176 MHz,  
1uV 380-512 MHz

Selectivity -50dB + 25MHz

Scan/Search Date: 16 Ch per sec

Scan/Search Delay: Selectable 0.1 or  
2 sec.

Memories: 160, 40 Ch x 4

Audio output: 0.5W RMS

Antenna: Flexible, 50 ohm with BNC  
Connector

Power Supply: 9VDC (UM3x6PCS)  
or NICAD

Dimensions: 175 (H) x 74 (W) x 37  
(D) mm

Weight: 700 grms

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# BBC surveys receivers

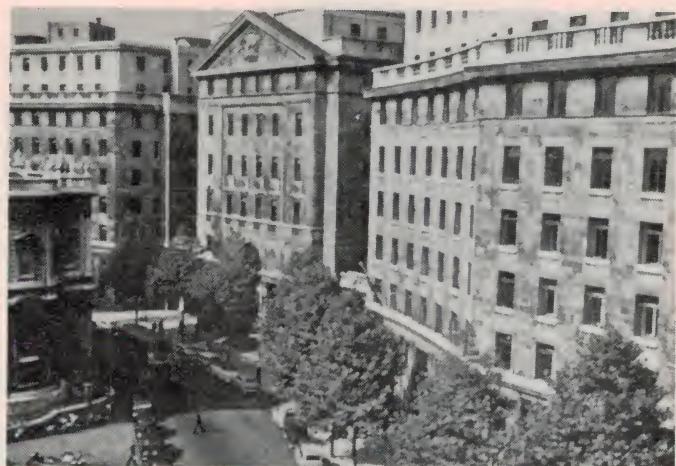
**A**wareness of reception conditions means that broadcasters can better cater to the listener. Looking at listeners' receivers, the BBC gleaned facts about their equipment, reception and got a better picture of the shortwave listener worldwide.

The BBC World Service Audience Research Unit recently conducted a survey of the radio receivers used by listeners, and a sample of around 2000 listeners covering all continents revealed some interesting statistics. The members of the audience surveyed by the BBC were not ardent shortwave listeners, in fact 75% of them were listeners who simply tuned to the BBC London, and had no other interests in the shortwave hobby, or knowledge in the wider field of frequencies, propagation and other deterrents to good shortwave reception.

The variety of radio receivers throughout the world was indicated in the survey by over 670 different models which were basically manufactured by 130 companies. The receiver brands common in various parts of the world reflected the companies heavily promoting in those areas e.g.: in Europe, Grundig, ITT,

Philips and the like; in Japan and the South Pacific, Sony and other Japanese made receivers. In North America where Japanese made receivers are also popular, modern communication receivers were found in the homes of the shortwave listeners, however, on the other side of the receiver pattern, in the Middle East and India, it was obvious that many listeners are still using the old valve receivers and accomplishing much with the more vintage type equipment.

Quite illuminating to the BBC engineers was to find that 90% of sets in use, covered the 49 down to the 16 metre band, the main frequency range used by international broadcasters. The receiver design was also interesting, and of the modern radios, the calculator type receiver with its memories, digital readout and touch keyboard had made an impact. Not a great many of these receivers are



**Bush House, London:** home of the BBC External Services from which a recent world wide survey was conducted to find the type of listening equipment used by the audience to the World Service.

being used at the moment by shortwave listeners, although there is an increasing awareness of the Sony ICF 2001 and other designers moving into that type of production.

Use of an outside aerial was favoured by only a third of those surveyed; BBC engineers were disappointed that such a low percentage of listeners was without adequate outdoor aerials, and therefore working under difficulties in getting the best from their equipment.

Nevertheless, Allan Cooper of the Research Unit said: "It was encouraging to find that keen as they are, these listeners were even keener to try and stay

with us; if conditions got bad, if the frequency went down, if we were too close, most of them would try and find another channel. Very few actually turned off or tried to retune to another station." He found the survey a most interesting one as it was the first time that listeners had been asked about their receiving equipment, listening conditions, aerials or other means to try and improve reception of the BBC World Service. It is obvious that when listeners find reception difficult due to the vagaries of shortwave reception, they do not easily give up listening.

— Arthur Cushen

## KILOHERTZ COMMENT

**ALASKA:** KNLS Anchor Point, Alaska which broadcasts gospel programmes in English, Chinese and Russian is operating to a new schedule up to March 2, 1985: 6170 kHz, 0700-1500 UTC; 7355 kHz, 1500-2000 UTC, then up to May 4 the schedule will be 6170 kHz, 0930-1500 UTC; 7355 kHz, 1500-2000 UTC; 9540 kHz, 0700-0930 UTC.

English is broadcast 0700-0930 UTC and 1730-2000 UTC, Russian 0930-1200 UTC, 1500-1730 UTC, and Chinese 1200-1500 UTC. The out-of-band frequency of 7355 is being used for broadcasts over the North Pole. Permission has been granted by the FCC to use this frequency due to the congestion of the normal shortwave bands.

**BOLIVIA:** Radio San Jose is a new station operated in the Oruro province and is the official voice of the miners in that area. Broadcasts have

been received on 5985 kHz from around 0930 UTC and at 1000 UTC a clock chimes six, and full identification in Spanish follows. This is followed by a siren which is repeated each half hour and is a typical time announcement (no doubt used by the population to report to work).

**GREAT BRITAIN:** The BBC World Service is now broadcasting news on the hour every hour. In the past there have been no news bulletins at 0100 UTC, 1000 UTC, 1400 UTC, 1900 UTC and 2100 UTC. Once a month when a 90 minute play is scheduled the news for that period will be cancelled.

Major frequency changes have taken place to improve our summer reception of the BBC and the additional channel of 21550 kHz is in use to Australia at 0900-1115 UTC. New Zealand and Australian listeners have additional coverage

on 6175 kHz, 0430-0730 UTC, 7325 kHz, 1700-2030 UTC, 11820 kHz, 1800-2030 UTC and 15400 kHz, 1800-2030 UTC. Reception in the mornings in our area continues through Singapore on 9570 kHz, 2000-2245 UTC and 11965 kHz, 2000-2200 UTC. Evening reception 0545-0915 UTC continues on 7150 kHz, 9640 kHz and 11955 kHz, and after 0900 UTC, 9740 kHz and 11750 kHz provide the best signals.

**NEPAL:** Radio Nepal at Kathmandu is now using 7165 kHz for English, 1440-1540 UTC. News is broadcast at 1455 UTC and the frequency suffers from severe sideband interference, while the alternative channel of 5005 kHz is blocked up to 1500 UTC by Radio Sarawak but with fair reception after that time.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** Several stations are projected to move from 120 metre band to 90 metre band and already Radio Manus in Lorengau is using 3315 kHz having moved from 2428 kHz. Signals are observed around 1030 UTC while test music has been noted at 1845 kHz prior to sign on at 1900 UTC when the new frequency is announced by Radio Manus which broadcasts from the Admiralty island.

This item was contributed by Arthur Cushen, 212 Earn St, Invercargill New Zealand, who would be pleased to supply additional information on medium and shortwave listening. All items quoted are UTC (GMT) 10 hours behind Sydney time, all frequencies are in kilohertz (kHz). In areas observing daylight time, add another hour.

## OBITUARY

Practical Wireless Magazine has noted the death of Harold Cottam at the age of 93.

Mr Cottam was a Marconi Ships Wireless Operator, and was serving on the Cunard liner Carpathia during April 1912, when he heard radio messages coming from the ill-fated liner Titanic. By great good fortune, he had remained on duty after his normal watch, and heard the shore station at Cape Cod send a warning message to the Titanic regarding icebergs in the area. He attempted to relay the message, but received in return the doomed ship's distress messages.

Harold at once notified the captain of the Carpathia of the impending tragedy, and as a result the ship was the first to arrive at the scene of the tragedy. Carpathia rescued 771 people. There were 2201 passengers of the 'unsinkable' Titanic.

## Danish pager

The RX808 pager from Niros is now available in Australia.

The unit provides voice reproduction by using a new transducer that is responsible for an audio level of 85 dBA at 300 mm. The RX808 provides for open channel monitoring using a conventional carrier squelch circuit. The same pro-

gramming button will also provide for call memory.

It will operate in 68-88 MHz, 146-174 MHz and 406-520 MHz, providing a receiver sensitivity better than 0.7 µV for 20 dB Sinad (CEPT method). The pager's coding may be selected between CCIR, ZVEI or EIA, all five tone sequential.

For more information contact Telmar Communications. (03)690-8666.

## WIN YOUR CLUB A UHF REPEATER . . . AND YOURSELF AN AMATEUR STATION!

In a new competition announced by Dick Smith Electronics who are the factory authorised importers and suppliers of Yaesu amateur radio equipment in Australia, the major prize-winner won't even be an entrant! The major prize winner will be a club, group or association nominated by the entrant — and that group will receive a magnificent new **Yaesu 70 cm amateur repeater** — complete and ready to 'plug in' to a power point and suitable antenna.

This much-sought-after prize, valued at almost \$5000, has been donated by Yaesu Musen, Japan, to help promote amateur radio activity in Australia and the 430 MHz band in particular.

Entry to the competition is open to anyone — to qualify, all they have to do is purchase any item of Yaesu equipment from any Dick Smith Electronics store. Then they have to explain (in the space provided on the entry form) why their club/group/association etc should be awarded the prize.

**QUALITY FROM ENGLAND**

# CLIFF

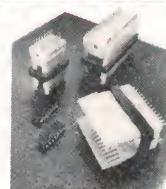
**K9** 19 x 20 mm  
**K10** 18.5 x 17 mm  
**K11** 20 x 19.7 mm  
**K12** 19.2 x 25.3 mm

K9-10-11-12 matt black finish available in push-on or screw-fix. Push on caps, available colours red, black, white, blue, yellow, orange, grey or green.



### I.C. TEST CLIP

3 sizes — 14-16, 26-28 and 40 way



## Masco sells Bearcat

The Bearcat name has been transferred from Masco's subsidiary, Electra Company, to Uniden, along with the patents

on Bearcat scanner radios and allied products.

Electra will continue to manufacture Bearcat products for Uniden for an unspecified period of time, though not every model in the Bearcat line will be continued. The financial details of this agreement were not made public.

## Bosch radio

Robert Bosch (Australia) has launched a new range of Bosch hand-held portable radios.

Described as rugged, versatile, reliable and easy to use, the hand-held portable radios, HFG 84 and HFT 164 can be used on VHF low and high bands respectively. They have a slim line and are dust and splash proof. The frequency synthesiser provides 32 channels with options available for 64 channels. They are specifically designed for use in

industrial applications.

Frequencies are programmed via a flexible EPROM. Transmitter power is internally adjustable between 0.1-1 W or 1-2.5 W. Five tone selective calling is available as an option and can be internally field programmed for either ZVEI or CCIR tone groups.

For further information contact Weston Communications Group Pty Ltd, 31 Coventry Street, South Melbourne Vic 3205. (03)690-7233.

The best answer will win the prize for the body nominated. It's as simple as that.

Judges will be representatives from Dick Smith Electronics and the Wireless Institute of Australia. While there is no restriction on the group to whom the prize is awarded, it is expected that the group will be, or is prepared to become, affiliated with the Wireless Institute of Australia to facilitate the issue of a repeater licence by the Dept of Communications.

By the way, the entrant is not forgotten either. For his or her efforts in winning a repeater for his club, he or she will be rewarded with a complete Yaesu amateur station — either HF (based on the Yaesu FT757GX) or VHF/UHF (based on the Yaesu FT726R). The individual prize is donated by Dick Smith Electronics.

Both of these stations are valued at well over \$2000 — and in the case of the HF station, the prize even includes the antenna! Total value of prizes in this contest is around \$8000. The contest officially starts December 1, and judging will take place (and the winners announced!) during March.

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# LISTENING TO LATIN AMERICA

Signals from Latin America on medium and shortwave present a challenge. The unpredictability of station replies and the fascination of listening to locally based Latin American programmes is a reward in itself.

**Arthur  
Cushen**



Trans World Radio,  
Bonaire —  
Transmitter building  
and towers of this  
popular gospel  
radio station.

SOUTH OF THE United States border is the area regarded as Latin America, covering Central and South America, and the Caribbean. Spanish is spoken in almost every country except Brazil, where the language is Portuguese, and the Caribbean where there are many local dialects including French and Creole. English is the major language of many of the former colonial British islands in the Caribbean, nevertheless, nearly all regional transmissions are in Spanish.

## Tropical bands

The majority of locally based shortwave transmissions in South America is on the tropical band, generally in the 60 metre band 4750-5050 kHz. Some are heard in the 90 metre band, 3200-3400 kHz and a few use the 120m band, 2200-2500 kHz. Reception is in two phases — in our winter during the afternoons in Australia, stations can be heard signing off, and in the summer the stations are heard with sign on and morning programmes.

Most stations open with the national anthem and South Americans are heard at 0800 UTC from Brazil, 1000 UTC Vene-

zuela and 1100 UTC from Colombia, Peru and Ecuador, but of course many open before this time. They may be agriculturally based, operated by a mining company or have religious affiliations, so that the morning opening times vary.

Opening identification generally includes the call sign, station slogan and details of frequencies on medium, shortwave and even FM transmissions. the city and country and also the time are generally part of the sign on announcement. The morning programmes include news, commercials and bright Latin music. Once one has been able ►

## WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

FOUNDED 1910

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Callsign .....

Postcode .....



Surinam is a country under a new government, and Radio Apintie a well known signal from South America.

to identify much of the spoken material, writing a detailed and accurate report becomes no difficulty.

The pattern of these tropical band stations follows a similar one to mediumwave signals, and once daylight occurs at the transmitting end, signals rapidly fade out. Listening to these stations in the Australian evening, one seldom hears the Brazilians after 1100 UTC or most South Americans after 1230 UTC while Central Americans can be audible to past 1300 UTC. Caribbean signals are heard around 0900 to past 1100 UTC.

### English broadcasts

There is some external broadcasting from South America mainly from HCJB, (Quito, Ecuador), Trans World Radio and Radio Nederland (Bonaire), Radio Braz (Brazilia, Brazil), and RAE Radio Argentina Exterior from Buenos Aires, Argentina. All these stations have some English broadcasts which enable the first loggings of a station in South America to be relatively easy.

In Central America and the Caribbean, Voice of Nicaragua and Radio Havana, Cuba, are the strongest signals carrying English programmes, while the BBC and Deutsche Welle have relays on Antigua; and Voice of America has mediumwave facilities at the same location. There are numerous gospel stations in the Central American Caribbean area which broadcast occasional English programmes, but these could not be classed as being received on a regular basis.

### Station verification

The excitement of hearing Latin American signals is often tinged with the knowledge

that the percentage of replies is generally low. Listeners should be aware that IRCs (International Reply Coupons) obtainable at the Post Office to be used by the station for return postage are not always valid in Peru. Postage stamps are an attraction to mail handlers and commemorative stamps should not be used, as the possibility of the letter reaching the station is particularly reduced; in Ecuador, HCJB reports that some 30% of the mail never reaches its destination. Aerogrammes are the safest way to report reception and guard against the unscrupulous mail sorter or deliverer. The name of a station official should be used if possible, and can be found in the *World Radio and Television Handbook* which details the station personalities to which a report should be directed. Enclosures such as travel booklets, stickers and souvenirs often lead to verification, when the initial report remains unanswered, and this follow up is sent by surface mail. Because a listener verifies a station does not mean that he will automatically receive a confirmation of his report. Always quote the station's local time and date, spell out the day and month and do not use figures, as there are two systems of presenting this material which causes confusion. Make sure your letter has a return address so that failure to effect delivery will mean your report is returned. This writer has verified over 500 South American stations and has confirmed these in every South and Central American country on shortwave, as well as all Caribbean stations, with shortwave transmissions, but this total has taken 45 years to collect and many thousands of reports would have gone unanswered by stations over that period of listening.

# A 'GLASS TELETYPE' USING THE VZ200

Part 2

IN THE FIRST PART of this article we described the construction of the hardware for your VZ200 RTTY interface. Hopefully by now you have a working RTTY interface plugged into your computer and are rarin' to get on the airwaves and start decoding these dots and dashes. In this part we give the final hookup information and details on using the software as well as a full software listing. Start warming up those transceivers and read on . . .

Now comes the time to connect your transceiver to the interface. Connection is made through the five-pin DIN plug on the rear panel. Wire the TX output and PTT pins to a microphone plug, and the RX input to a speaker plug. You will probably prefer to fit an extension speaker so you can monitor the received signals. Plug the microphone and speaker plugs into your transceiver and adjust the receive volume for a comfortable listening level to start with. High receive volume with the mute open on FM, will cause random characters to appear on the screen. This is to be expected if you over-drive the preamp/filters. These high volume levels are not required, and normal operation will require the volume to be no more than normal listening level.

If operating on VHF/UHF, the RTTY signals will probably be FM. This makes things easy, as the received tones will be of the correct frequency. Simply select the channel and adjust the volume. The 'lock detect' LED will light when a signal is being received correctly.

When operating on HF using SSB, care is required in tuning to the correct frequency. The LED will indicate when you are close. If you can't resolve it, try the other sideband.

This RTTY interface is designed to use a shift of 170 Hz. If you wish to receive commercial TTY (many of which use larger shifts), simply tune into one tone only. The 'lock' effect of the XR2211 will ensure correct data reception. Again, if you have difficulty, try the other sideband, the other tone, or another baud rate. NOTE: When receiving commercial, wide-shift TTY, the LED will flash in time with the data, due to the out-of-lock condition on one tone.

The normal specifications for Amateur RTTY are as follows

Mark (logic low) ..... 2125 Hz

Keeping up with the popularity of radioteletype transmission has prompted a few projects from us. Last month we published Part 1 of project 756, designed and developed by Dick Smith's R & D Department to add on an RTTY to the accessible VZ200. This article completes that project and should get you on the airwaves.

Space (logic high) .....	2295 Hz
Shift .....	170 Hz
Speed .....	45.45 baud
Idle: logic high	
1 start bit	
5 data bits	
1.5 stop bits	

That concludes the general operation of the RTTY interface. Those Sydney operators who are new to RTTY will find plenty of activity on the Sydney RTTY repeater on 146.675 MHz. There is also a RTTY simplex channel on 146.600 MHz. You will find many operators only too glad to encourage newcomers to this mode of communications.

## GENERAL OPERATION

### Entering your callsign.

On power-up, your VZ200 RTTY interface will introduce itself. To continue, press any key. You will then be asked to enter your callsign. You may enter anything up to 64 characters but it is recommended that if you wish to use the WRU mode, you use the following format:

enter your callsign  
VK2FGH (PETER)

There should be no leading space before the callsign and there should be at least one space after the callsign. Apart from that, you may add anything you like up to 64 characters total. This enables your callsign to be used as the WRU code. You may wish to use another code instead. If so, it must not be longer than a normal callsign (i.e. six letters) although it may be shorter, and it must always be followed by a space character. If you press <RETURN> at this point instead of entering text, the callsign buffer will contain a null and any attempt to send a callsign will give no response. The disadvantage of this is that your WRU system (when

activated), instead of being selective, will respond to any WRU sent.

### Loading the programmable buffers.

Once you have entered your callsign, press <RETURN> and you will enter the buffer entry mode. In this mode, you are able to enter text into any of the six programmable buffers. Each buffer may contain up to 64 characters. You may start entering text by typing the number of the buffer you require. Your VZ200 will display the buffer number you have selected. Simply enter your text as you require.

Note: the SHIFT M command is used for the backspace key.

Press <RETURN> when you are finished, and your buffer is programmed. Repeat the process for each buffer you require to program, including the WRU buffer (buffer 0). When you have finished, press SHIFT X to enter the MENU.

### Menu mode.

From the MENU you are able to enter the three main operation modes, i.e: receive mode, transmit mode, and buffer entry mode. You can return to the menu at any time from any of these modes by using SHIFT X.

### Receive mode.

In this mode you are able to receive RTTY. The first thing you will notice is the command line at the top of the screen. This line tells you the current status of the system. In the RECEIVE mode it will display RECEIVE MODE on the left. On the right will be the number 45. This is the current BAUD rate. The system will always default to 45.45 baud.

The command line is also used to display the current status of the PRINTER and WRU modes. These modes always default to the OFF status.

To demonstrate this, hold down the ▶

## **PROGRAM LISTING**

ADDR	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
4000:	AA	55	E7	18	21	FF	7F	F9	F3	3E	0D	21	09	80	77	11
4010:	0A	80	01	80	01	ED	B0	3E	EC	32	08	80	AF	32	06	80
4020:	32	07	80	CD	EF	49	CD	99	49	CD	C9	01	21	F7	43	CD
4030:	A7	28	CD	20	47	FE	00	28	F9	CD	C9	01	21	AC	44	CD
4040:	A7	28	21	8F	81	C3	2E	46	CD	DA	41	CD	C9	01	AF	32
4050:	00	60	21	F6	81	22	F4	81	77	11	F7	81	01	01	04	ED
4060:	B0	CD	CA	46	32	F2	81	21	60	42	CD	A3	45	21	90	42
4070:	CD	A7	28	21	D6	42	CD	A7	28	21	09	43	CD	A7	28	CD
4080:	F4	2E	FE	31	CA	93	40	FE	32	CA	1F	48	FE	33	CA	B5
4090:	45	18	EC	AF	32	00	60	CD	C9	01	21	1E	42	CD	A3	45
40A0:	CD	77	46	CD	D9	49	CD	EF	49	21	C0	71	22	00	80	21
40B0:	E0	70	22	F0	81	CD	70	4B	AF	32	05	80	CD	23	49	3A
40C0:	05	80	FE	FF	CA	28	48	CD	8F	46	1E	00	3A	00	50	CB
40D0:	7F	28	E9	CD	23	49	3A	05	80	FE	FF	CA	28	48	CD	8F
40E0:	46	3A	00	50	CB	7F	20	EB	0E	08	CD	1E	45	CD	18	45
40F0:	3A	00	50	CB	17	CB	11	38	05	CD	18	45	18	F2	CD	18
4100:	45	21	E0	46	06	00	16	00	79	FE	1B	20	02	1E	01	FE
4110:	1F	20	02	1E	00	CB	21	19	09	7E	FE	09	FA	2E	41	FE
4120:	OD	20	02	1E	00	CD	68	45	CD	30	41	CD	5B	41	18	A3
4130:	E5	D5	F5	3A	07	80	FE	00	28	1D	37	3F	ED	5B	F8	85
4140:	21	38	86	ED	52	28	10	F1	FE	0C	38	08	2A	F8	85	77
4150:	23	22	F8	85	D1	E1	C9	F1	D1	E1	C9	F5	D5	F5	3A	06
4160:	80	FE	00	20	03	F1	18	2F	21	D0	81	11	DA	81	01	OA
4170:	00	ED	B0	21	DA	81	11	D1	81	01	09	00	ED	B0	11	DO
4180:	81	F1	12	21	E4	81	11	D9	81	1A	BE	20	0A	23	1B	7E
4190:	FE	AA	28	06	1A	18	F3	D1	F1	C9	D1	F1	21	OC	42	ED
41A0:	5B	F4	81	01	06	00	ED	B0	ED	53	F4	81	3E	06	32	F2
41B0:	81	CD	F6	41	3E	0D	CD	30	41	3A	00	50	CB	7F	20	F9
41C0:	0E	32	CD	1E	45	CD	18	45	3A	00	50	CB	7F	20	EA	0D
41D0:	20	F3	AA	05	80	2F	32	05	80	C9	21	8F	81	11	E4	81
41E0:	7E	12	FE	20	23	13	28	02	18	F6	06	04	21	FC	44	7E
41F0:	12	23	13	10	FA	C9	06	OC	21	7F	00	C5	01	64	00	CD
4200:	5C	34	01	00	20	CD	60	00	C1	10	ED	C9	95	0D	0D	90
4210:	0D	23	57	52	55	00	20	20	20	00	50	52	54	00	52	45
4220:	43	45	49	56	45	20	4D	4F	44	45	20	20	20	20	20	20
4230:	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	00	54
4240:	52	41	4E	53	4D	49	54	20	4D	4F	44	45	20	20	20	20
4250:	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	00
4260:	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	56	5A	2D	32	30	30
4270:	20	52	54	54	59	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	00
4280:	34	35	20	00	35	30	20	00	37	35	20	00	31	31	30	00
4290:	0D	0D	0D	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
42A0:	4D	45	4E	55	0D	0D	20	20	20	31	29	20	52	45	43	45
42B0:	49	56	45	20	20	20	32	29	20	54	52	41	4E	53	4D	49
42C0:	54	0D	20	20	20	33	29	20	4C	4F	41	44	20	42	55	46
42D0:	46	45	52	53	0D	0D	0D	20	20	50	52	45	53	53	20	D3
42E0:	C8	C9	C6	D4	20	D8	20	41	54	20	41	4E	59	20	54	49
42F0:	4D	45	0D	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	46	4F
4300:	52	20	40	45	4E	55	0D	0D	00	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
4310:	20	20	20	53	45	4C	45	43	54	20	28	31	2D	33	29	0D
4320:	00	0D	0D	20	20	20	20	20	20	42	55	46	46	45	52	20
4330:	49	4E	50	55	54	20	52	4F	55	54	49	4E	45	0D	0D	0D
4340:	0D	0D	20	20	45	4E	54	45	52	20	42	55	46	46	45	52
4350:	20	4E	55	4D	42	45	52	20	28	30	2D	35	29	00	20	57
4360:	52	55	20	42	55	46	46	45	52	00	20	42	55	46	46	48
4370:	45	52	20	23	31	0D	00	20	42	55	46	46	45	20	23	29
4380:	32	0D	00	20	42	55	46	46	52	20	23	33	0D	00	20	40
4390:	42	55	46	46	45	52	20	23	34	0D	00	20	42	55	46	46
43A0:	45	52	20	23	35	0D	00	44	45	20	43	51	20	43	51	20
43B0:	20	43	51	20	43	51	20	43	51	20	43	51	20	43	51	20
43C0:	43	51	20	43	51	20	43	51	20	0D	20	50	4C	53	20	4B
43D0:	4B	20	4B	4B	20	4B	0D	52	59	52	59	52	59	52	59	52
43E0:	52	59	52	59	52	59	52	59	52	59	52	59	52	59	52	59
43F0:	52	59	52	59	52	59	0D	0D	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
4400:	2A															
4410:	2A	2A	2A	2A	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
4420:	32	30	30	20	20	52	54	54	59	20	20	2A	20	20	20	20
4430:	20	20	20	20	2A	20	54	45	52	4D	49	4E	41	4C	20	20
4440:	50	41	43	4B	20	2A	0D	20	20	20	20	20	20	2A	2A	2A
4450:	2A															
4460:	0D	0D	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
4470:	46	52	4F	4D	0D	20	20	20	20	20	44	49	43	4B	20	53
4480:	4D	49	54	48	20	45	4C	45	43	54	52	4F	4E	49	43	53
4490:	0D	20	20	20	20	2A	20	20	43	4F	50	52	49	47	48	49D0:
44A0:	54	20	28	43	29	20	31	39	38	34	0D	00	0D	45	4E	54
44B0:	45	52	20	59	4F	55	52	20	43	41	4C	53	49	47	4E	54
44C0:	20	3A	0D	00	54	48	45	20	51	55	49	43	4B	20	42	52
44D0:	4F	57	4E	20	46	4F	58	20	4A	55	4D	50	53	20	4F	56
44E0:	45	52	20	54	48	45	40	4A	51	59	20	44	4F	47	20	4A20:
44F0:	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	20	2D	57	52	55	AA90:
4500:	53	54	41	54	49	4F	4E	20	49	44	45	4E	54	49	46	49
4510:	43	41	54	49	4F	4E	20	0D	CD	1E	45	CD	23	49	C5	3A
4520:	08	00	06	0B	10	FE	3D	20	F9	C1	2A	20	00	FE	0D	0D
4530:	28	05	FE	20	30	23	C9	ED	5B	20	78	D5	22	20	78	3E

4A80:	78 D5 2A F0	81 22 20 78	3E 0D CD 3A	03 2A 20 78	4FC0:	59 52 49 47	48 54 20 28	43 29 20 31	39 38 34 20
4A90:	22 F0 81 D1	ED 53 20 78	C9 2A F0 81	3E 20 2B 77	4FD0:	44 49 43 4B	20 53 4D 49	54 48 20 45	4C 45 43 54
4AA0:	22 F0 81 C9	FE 40 38 06	FE 60 30 02	D6 40 2A F0	4FE0:	52 4F 4E 49	43 53 20 50	54 59 2E 20	4C 54 44 2E
4AB0:	81 77 23 22	F0 81 C9 D6	0A FE 03 CA	5E 4B D6 13	4FF0:	20 41 55 53	54 52 41 4C	49 41 2E 00	00 00 00 00
4AC0:	FE 40 D0 FE	03 CA D8 4A	FE 21 D2 D8	4A 08 FE FF					
4AD0:	28 10 3E FF	08 C3 33 4B	08 FE 00 28	05 AF 08 C3					
4AE0:	28 4B 08 CD	E7 4A C9 21	76 4C 01 00	00 4F 09 4E					
4AF0:	06 06 CB 11	CB 11 CB 11	DA 07 4B C3	12 4B 10 F6					
4B00:	CD 1C 4B CD	8F 46 C9 3E	FF 32 00 58	CD 18 45 C3					
4B10:	FE 4A AF 32	00 58 CD 18	45 C3 FE 4A	3E FF 32 00					
4B20:	58 CD 18 45	CD 1E 45 C9	F5 0E 1F CD	F0 4A F1 CD					
4B30:	E7 4A C9 F5	0E 1B CD 0F	4A F1 CD E7	4A C9 0E 02					
4B40:	CD F0 4A C3	46 4B 0E 08	CD F0 4A C3	58 48 0E 04					
4B50:	CD F0 4A 08	AF 08 C3 58	48 0E 08 C3	F0 4A 0E 02					
4B60:	C3 F0 4A 01	FF BF CD 60	00 01 FF BF	CD 60 00 C9					
4B70:	C5 01 FF 5F	CD 60 00 C1	C9 F5 C5 01	FF 2F CD 60					
4B80:	00 C1 F1 C9	FD 21 AB 43	CD FF 4B 18	07 FD 21 00					
4B90:	45 CD FF 4B	FD 21 A7 43	CD FF 4B FD	21 8F 81 CD					
4BA0:	FF 4B C3 58	48 FD 21 CA	43 CD FF 4B	C3 58 48 FD					
4BB0:	21 D8 43 CD	FF 4B C3 58	48 FD 21 C4	44 CD FF 4B					
4BC0:	C3 58 48 FD	21 09 80 CD	FF 4B C3 58	48 FD 21 4A					
4BD0:	80 CD FF 4B	C3 58 48 FD	21 8B 80 CD	FF 4B C3 58					
4BE0:	48 FD 21 CC	80 CD FF 4B	C3 58 48 FD	21 0D 81 CD					
4BF0:	FF 4B C3 58	48 FD 21 4E	81 CD FF 4B	C3 58 48 FD					
4C00:	7E 00 FE 0D	C8 F5 CD 68	45 CD 30 41	CD 8F 46 CD					
4C10:	B7 4A F1 FD	23 18 E8 3A	08 80 FE EC	28 0D FE D7					
4C20:	28 10 FE 8D	28 13 FE 61	28 16 C9 3E	D7 32 08 80					
4C30:	18 15 3E 8D	32 08 80 18	18 3E 61 32	08 80 18 1B					
4C40:	3E EC 32 08	80 18 1E 11	1B 70 21 84	42 CD A6 45					
4C50:	C9 11 1B 70	21 88 42 CD	A6 45 C9 11	1B 70 21 8C					
4C60:	42 CD A6 45	C9 11 1B 70	21 80 42 CD	A6 45 C9 01					
4C70:	FF FF CD 60	00 C9 08 02	00 04 00 00	00 0B 16 00					
4C80:	1A 1E 09 00	11 06 18 07	17 0D 1D 19	10 0A 01 15					
4C90:	1C 0C 03 0E	00 00 0F 00	13 00 18 13	0E 12 10 16					
4CA0:	0B 05 0C 1A	1E 09 07 06	03 0D 1D 0A	14 01 1C 0F					
4CB0:	19 17 15 11	FF 04 FF 04	FF 4C FF 4C	FF 4C FF 4C					
4CC0:	FB 48 FB 48	FB 48 FB 08	FB 08 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4CD0:	FB 48 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4CE0:	FB 48 FB 48	FB 48 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4CF0:	FB 48 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4D00:	37 00 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 0C					
4D10:	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 0C					
4D20:	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 0C					
4D30:	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 0C					
4D40:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4D50:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4D60:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4D70:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4D80:	37 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 04 FF 04					
4D90:	FF 0C FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 04 FF 0C					
4DA0:	FF 0C FF 0C								
4DB0:	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 0C					
4DC0:	FB 48 FB 08	FB 48 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4DD0:	FB 08 FB 08								
4DE0:	FB 48 FB 08	FB 48 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4DF0:	FB 08 FB 08								
4E00:	37 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 04 FF 04					
4E10:	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 04					
4E20:	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 04					
4E30:	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 0C					
4E40:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4E50:	FB 08 FB 00	FB 08 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4E60:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4E70:	FB 08 FB 08	FB 00 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4E80:	17 0C FF 0C	FF 04 FF 04	FF 0C FF 04	FF 04 FF 04					
4E90:	FF 04 FF 04								
4EA0:	FF 04 FF 04								
4EB0:	FF 04 FF 04								
4EC0:	FB 08 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4ED0:	FB 08 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4EE0:	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00	FB 08 FB 08	FB 08 FB 08					
4EF0:	FB 00 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00	FB 08 FB 00	FB 00 FB 00					
4F00:	37 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04					
4F10:	FF 04 FF 04								
4F20:	FF 04 FF 04								
4F30:	FF 04 FF 04								
4F40:	FB 00 FB 00								
4F50:	FB 00 FB 00								
4F60:	FB 00 FB 00								
4F70:	FB 00 FB 00								
4F80:	37 0C FF 0C	FF 0C FF 04	FF 0C FF 04	FF 04 FF 04					
4F90:	FF 04 FF 04								
4FA0:	FF 0C FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04	FF 04 FF 04					
4FB0:	52 4F 4D 20	43 4F 4E 54	45 4E 54 53	20 43 4F 50					
					5000	Receive data			
					5800	Transmit data			
					6000	Transmit/receive relay			

## NOTES & ERRATA

## THE SOFTWARE

There is an unused section in the VZ200 memory map between 4000H and 67FFH. This area was set aside for use with plug-in software packs. The RTTY unit fits into this area of memory.

For design simplicity, this section is decoded into five 2K blocks. The first two blocks are used for the main software routines. The other three blocks are used for receive data, transmit data and relay data.

All data transfer is done through bit 7 (D7). The software also uses a section of RAM starting at 8000H. This area is used to store volatile data such as buffers and flags.

Some useful RAM and EPROM addresses are given below.

## RAM LOCATIONS

8000/01	Receive character cursor position
8005	Receive/transmit toggle flag
8006	WRU flag
8007	Printer flag
8008	Timing loop value (231 = 45.45 baud)
8009	Start of buffer 0
804A	Start of buffer 1
808B	Start of buffer 2
80CC	Start of buffer 3
810D	Start of buffer 4
814E	Start of buffer 5
818F	Start of callsign storage area
81F0/F1	Transmit cursor position
81F6	Start of keyboard input buffer

## EPROM LOCATIONS

4000	EPROM entry point
4039	Callsign entry routine
45B5	Buffer entry routine
4048	Menu entry point
4093	Receive routine entry point
468F	Line printer routine entry point
4518	Delay routine
4923	Keyboard input and video processing routine
4810	Transmit entry point
484C	Transmit active point
4568	Transmit data video display routine
4AB7	ASCII to baud conversion
49B7	Toggle receive/transmit relay on/off
49C1	Toggle WRU on/off
49CD	Toggle printer on/off
499E	Change baud rate 45-50-75-110-45 etc.

## OTHERS

5000	Receive data
5800	Transmit data
6000	Transmit/receive relay

## MODIFICATIONS TO VZ/RTTY DECODER TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE ON WIDEBAND COMMERCIAL RTTY

The following changes to component values will allow less critical receiver tuning when decoding wideband commercial RTTY found on the HF bands.

While values are given for both 425 Hz and 850 Hz shifts, prototype units constructed for 850 Hz shift use were quite capable of resolving stations using 425 Hz shifts.

It should be noted that once these modifications have been performed, it is highly unlikely that the decoder will resolve 170 Hz shift amateur RTTY.

### CHANGES FOR 850 Hz SHIFT (1450/2300 Hz)

#### i) Changes to filter stages

Change:

R35 from 300k 5% to 180k 5%  
R34 from 27k 5% to 27k 1%  
R33 from 3k9 1% to 27k 1%  
R32 from 680k 1% to 1M 1%  
R31 from 680k 1% to 18k 5%  
R19 from 390k 5% to 100k 5%  
R18 from 220k 5% to 470k 5%  
R17 from 3k9 1% to 8k2 1%  
R16 from 1M 1% to 47k 5%  
R15 no change.

#### ii) Changes to FSK decoder

Change:

RV2 from 10k to 20k  
R14 from 18k 1% to 15k 1%  
R12 from 270k 5% to 47k 5%  
R11 from 470k 5% to 1M5 5%  
C7 from 330n to 39n

### CHANGES FOR 425Hz SHIFT (1875/2300Hz)

#### i) Changes to filter stages

Change:

R35 from 330k 5% to 220k 5%  
R34 from 27k 5% to 39k 1%  
R33 from 3k9 1% to 12k 1%  
R32 from 680k 1% to 820k 1%  
R31 from 680k 1% to 68k 1%  
R19 from 390k 5% to 150k 5%  
R18 from 220k 5% to 47k 5%  
R17 from 3k9 1% to 8k2 1%  
R16 from 1M 1% to 100k 1%  
R15 no change

#### ii) Changes to FSK decoder

Change:

RV2 from 10k to 20k  
R14 from 18k 1% to 12k 1%  
R12 from 270k 5% to 100k 5%  
R11 from 470k 5% to 1M5 5%  
C7 from 330n to 39n

SHIFT key and press U. The command line will display WRU. This indicates that the WRU mode is now active. Again press SHIFT U, and the WRU will no longer be displayed, indicating the WRU mode is disabled. Try the same with SHIFT H. This enables and disables the printer. Similarly, SHIFT S changes the BAUD rate.

The screen is split into two sections, each with independent scrolling. All received text is displayed on the bottom screen, while the top screen is used to display your typed text. You may type and receive simultaneously. The type ahead buffer can contain up to 1024 (1K) characters. Any data from the buffers may be added as you go by pressing the appropriate enable keys. A graphic block will be displayed as you type to show you that a buffer has been enabled. You may terminate your text with the '#' code. When this code is found during transmission, your system will automatically revert to the receive mode.

#### Transmit mode.

When the station you are communicating with has finished his transmission, you may reply to him by pressing

SHIFT Z

This sends your terminal to the transmit mode, enabling your transmitter, and sending the test you previously typed. You may continue typing if you wish. Your system will continue to send the stored text, including any programmed text, until it catches up with your typing, whereby it will follow the text as you type it. During all this time, the text is displayed on the bottom screen,

along with the contents of any programmed buffers you may have enabled. Thus you can see everything being sent in its final form. You may exit to receive by using either

#  
or  
SHIFT Z

Note: SHIFT Z will not work if there is still data in the buffer waiting to be sent. This prevents you from accidentally terminating the transmission prematurely. If you wish to abort your transmission intentionally, use

SHIFT X

to get back to the menu.

#### WRU mode.

The WRU mode is a special feature included to add versatility to your system. To activate this mode, press

SHIFT U

The letters WRU will appear on the command line. When this mode is active, any station sending your callsign (or any other code entered on power-up), followed by the letters WRU, will activate your system. When this happens, your VZ200 will first beep to let you know that your system is being called. After checking to ensure the frequency is clear, your transmitter will then activate automatically, sending 'STATION IDENTIFICATION DE <callsign>', along with any message stored in the WRU buffer (buffer # 0).

For example, if you had entered on

power-up 'VK2FGH (PETER)' any station wishing to activate your WRU mode would need to send

VK2FGH WRU

Your system would then respond with

STATION IDENTIFICATION DE  
VK2FGH (PETER)

If you had programmed the WRU buffer, your system might also add

PLEASE STAND BY . . .  
++ OPERATOR ALERTED ++

or something similar.

If you wished to leave a special message your could put any code up to six letters long (followed by a space, of course) in the callsign storage buffer, and the special message in the WRU buffer. Only the stations aware of your code will be able to access the message.

#### Inbuilt pre-programmed buffers.

There are seven pre-programmed messages stored in your VZ200 terminal. Many of these are designed to insert your callsign automatically when called, to save you time and effort. These buffers and their enable commands are listed below:

Note: one row of text here is 32 characters. Thus it will only fill one half of a normal 64 character screen.

SHIFT C: Send — CQ  
One row of CQs is sent along with your callsign

SHIFT A: Send — RYs  
One row of RYs is sent.

SHIFT F: Send — QBF  
Send 'THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG 0123456789'

SHIFT P: Send — over terminator.  
The message 'PLEASE KK KK KK' is sent to terminate your call.

SHIFT I: Identify your station.  
The message 'STATION IDENTIFICATION DE (callsign)' is sent. This is the same as is sent by the WRU mode.

SHIFT O: Send — Callsign.  
Your callsign (as entered on power-up) is sent.

SHIFT D: Send — DE callsign.  
As above except 'DE' is added to the start of your callsign.

Following are the commands to send the programmable buffers.

SHIFT Q: Send buffer #1

- SHIFT W: Send buffer #2
- SHIFT E: Send buffer #3
- SHIFT R: Send buffer #4
- SHIFT T: Send buffer #5
- SHIFT O: Send WRU buffer  
(buffer #0)

At any time you may require to restart the system. This is useful if you wish to re-enter your callsign, or enter your own WRU code. To do this, type

#### SHIFT G

This exits the current mode and restarts at the callsign entry mode. You may now re-enter your callsign.

#### Printer Function.

Your VZ200 will also drive a line printer. You may enable or disable the printer mode using

#### SHIFT H

Once enabled, all text received or transmitted will be sent to the printer to be stored as 'hard copy'. Note: If you enable the printer but do not have a printer on-line, your system will not be affected and will ignore the enable mode. But, text will still be stored in the internal printer buffer until the buffer finally fills up.

The internal print buffer is only 64 characters long and is designed to hold characters only when the printer is busy printing. Because of this, any text received when the printer is not on-line but the print routine is enabled, will be truncated in the buffer. If you have the print mode enabled and don't want to print the text which has been stored in the internal print buffer, you may clear the buffer with the following command

#### SHIFT B

There will be times when a station does not terminate his contact with a CARRIAGE

RETURN (CR). When this happens, you may find the last line of text does not get printed on the line printer. This is because many printers wait for a CR before printing the next line of text. By using the command

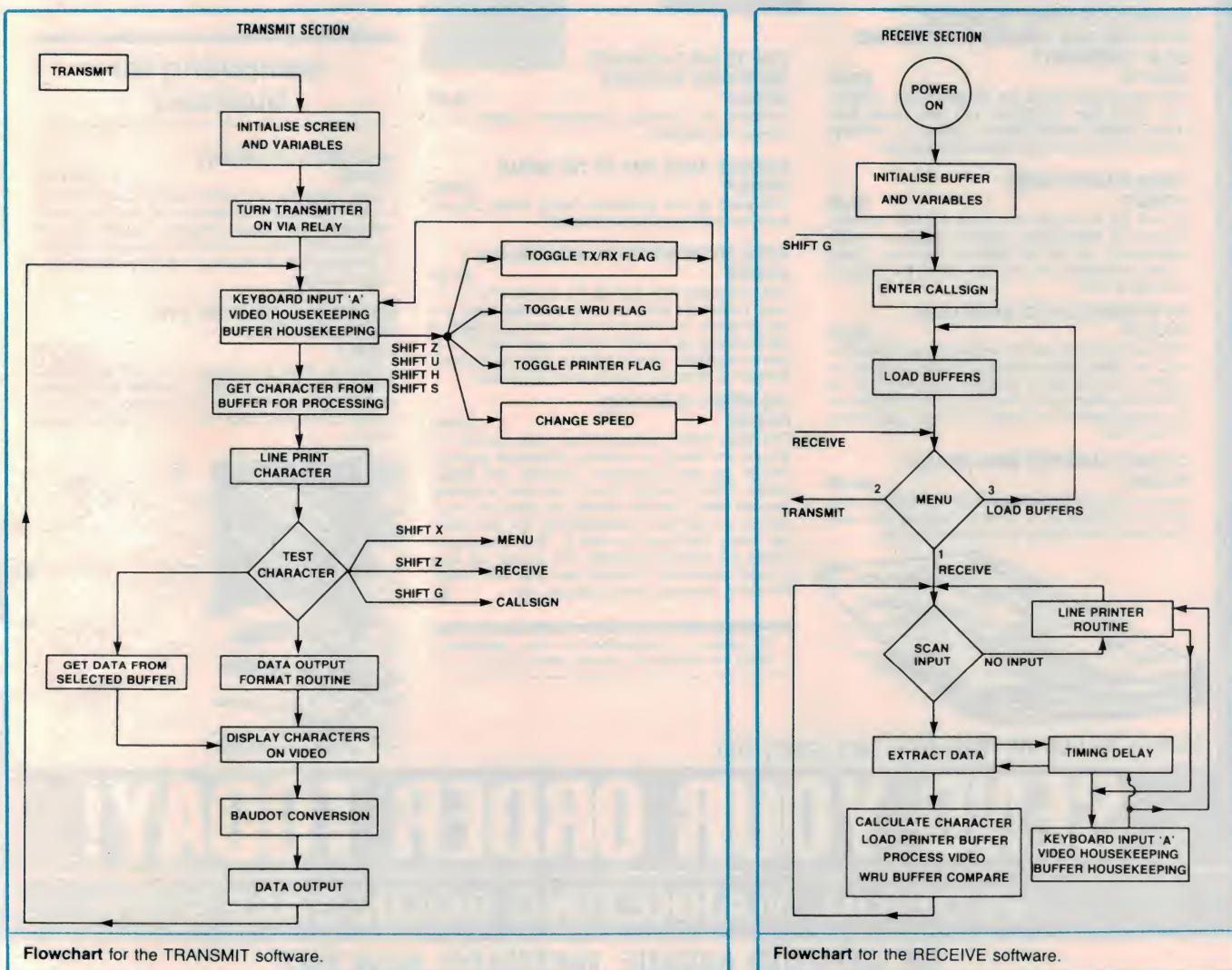
#### SHIFT <RETURN>

a carriage return will be inserted into the print buffer, thereby forcing it to print the last line. This can be done at any time to clear the printer's buffer, by forcing it to dump its contents onto paper.

That concludes the main operation description. The rest will come with experience, as will normal RTTY operating procedures.

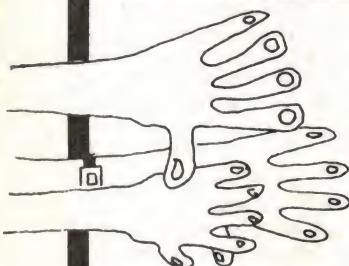
For further information on amateur RTTY, we suggest you contact *The Australian National Amateur Radio Teleprinter Society* at the following address:

**The Secretary,  
ANARTS,  
PO Box 860,  
Crows Nest NSW 2065**



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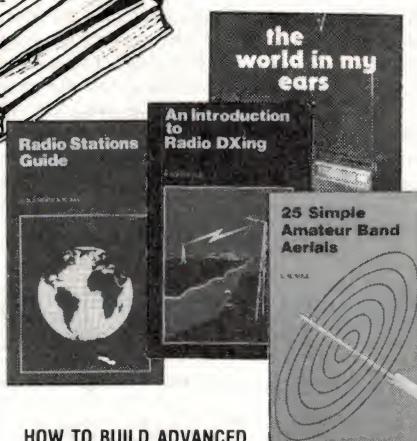
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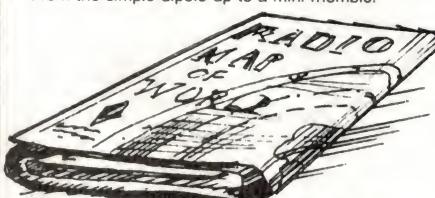
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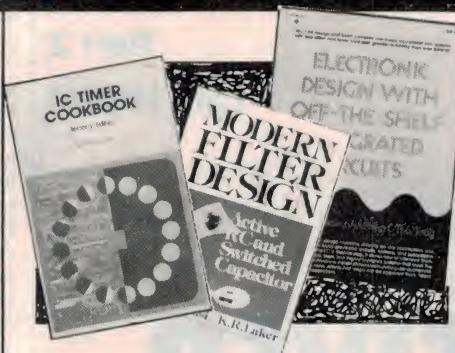
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Covers the practical aspects of printed-circuit board design and construction.

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An introductory course in practical solid-state circuit design for the experimenter, designer or technician interested in constructing tailor-made circuits.

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**E0099P** \$15.70

It contains virtually all the information you need to design and build electronic circuits, systems and subsystems with readily available ICs. Shows how to interface them into highly complex systems.

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**E0101B** \$4.50

The CA3130 is an advanced operational amplifier capable of higher performance than many others: circuits often need ancillary components. Audio projects, RF projects, test equipment, household projects.

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Introduction to digital ICs (mainly TTL 7400). Besides simple projects, includes logic test set to identify and test digital ICs. Also includes digital counter-timer.

### 50 CIRCUITS USING GERMANIUM, SILICON AND ZENER DIODES

**E0103B** \$5.95

Fifty interesting and useful circuits and applications using the germanium and silicon signal diodes, silicon rectifier diodes and zener diodes, etc.

### GUIDE TO CMOS BASICS, CIRCUITS, AND EXPERIMENTS

**E0107P** \$15.95

If you are already familiar with TTL devices and are ready to explore the benefits of CMOS, this book is your complete source. It tells you what CMOS devices are, their characteristics and design rules. Experiments demonstrate the concepts discussed.

### 50 SIMPLE LED CIRCUITS — BOOK 1

**E0108B** \$4.50

Fifty interesting circuits and applications using the LED. Includes circuits for the 707 common anode display for the beginner and advanced enthusiast.

### IC 555 PROJECTS

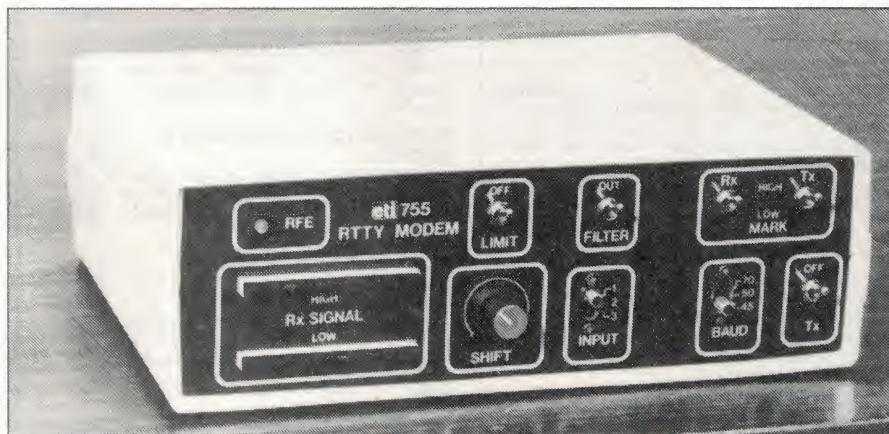
**E0109B** \$6.75

One wonders how life went on before the 555! Included are basic and general circuits, car and railway circuits, alarms and noise makers plus section on subsequent 556, 558 and 559s.

Prices subject to change without notice

The ETI-755 RTTY transceiver described last month was designed to be easily interfaced to various small computers. In this article we'll hook it up to the Microbee to provide a complete radioteletype sending and receiving system.

# RADIO-TELETYPE TRANSCEIVER



WHAT WE ARE DOING is not new. Electronic RTTY systems have been around for some years, first as stand-alone hardware devices, and later as add-ons for popular home computers. A most desirable feature seems to be a split-screen facility, in which you can prepare messages to be transmitted on one part of the video screen while material is still being received on another part.

The Microbee system has been designed around the split-screen idea. Figure 1 is a 'screen-dump' picture showing how it looks during an actual two-way contact. The part of the screen above the dotted line displays the copy received from the distant station. Below the line is your station's outgoing copy. It is important to realise that the two screens are completely independent of each other. Each scrolls up when it feels the need; each has its own pointer (which you can't see) to tell it where the next character goes. The only thing they share is a piece of glass.

Many of the commercial RTTY suppliers seem to pride themselves on the complexity

of their systems. One even boasts "over 40 commands". The Microbee system takes the opposite approach, following the 'KISS'

principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid). It's designed to allow the operator to concentrate on operating rather than trying to remember which command does what.

Although 'mice' and 'icons' seem to be the 'in' things nowadays, the Microbee doesn't provide such luxuries. So we use the 'control key' method of issuing commands. You hold down the control key with one hand and then point at the keyboard with the other. When you find the command you want you simply jab at it, and the result appears on the transmit screen section in inverse video. The characters are not transmitted (except for <RETURN>, <LINE FEED>, and <BEL>). None of the inverse characters causes a character to be printed at the receiving end (unless the receiving end is using TAPE mode, as described below).

The program is designed to emulate the workings of a mechanical teletype system consisting of a sending/receiving teleprinter, a high speed tape punch, and a paper tape reader. The functions of these machines are all there, but the hassles aren't. No noise, no paper tape strewn all over the place, no maintenance problems.

In its simplest form the program can be used as a teleprinter only, forgetting the paper tape punch and reader. In this case you can type back and forth with the other station by hitting <CONTROL S> to send, and <CONTROL C> or BREAK to receive. The software and the RTTY transceiver turn your transmitter on and off for you. (From now on we will refer to the control key as '^'.) The distant station's text is displayed on the upper screen, and your copy is on the lower. As you get more adventurous you can invoke some of the other functions.

## The functions

Now let's look at the program's functions one by one:

**AS = SEND**

### TRANSMIT COMMANDS

**^S**  
**^A**  
**^R**  
**^I**  
**^B**  
**^W**  
**^DEL**  
**^C (or BREAK RESET)**

Send from keyboard.  
Autosend (send contents of transmit buffer).  
Repeat (send first line of transmit buffer repeatedly).  
Copy 'IDENT' message into transmit buffer and send.  
Copy 'BRAG' message into transmit buffer and send.  
Store transmit buffer contents as 'BRAG' message.  
Erase complete transmit buffer/screen.  
Exit transmit mode to receive incoming copy.  
Stop sending and clear screens.

### RECEIVE COMMANDS

**^T**  
**^F**  
**^P**

Display received copy in 'tape' mode.  
Force figures/letters change (toggle action).  
Enable/disable printer (toggle action).

'^' means control key.

This command turns on your transmitter, sends eight 'letters shift' characters, sends carriage return and line feed (CRLF), and then waits for you to start typing. Each character is sent as you type it, unless you are a bloody fast typist. In this case it is possible for you to outrun the transmitter, which is limited to 60 words a minute or so. If this happens you will notice a little square cursor marching along somewhere behind you, marking each character on the screen as it is transmitted.

If you really steam it along, you'll reach the stage where the cursor might be a few lines behind (don't scroll the cursor off the screen, or you'll lose the whole line being transmitted, leaving you with the last character sent sitting on the dotted line as a souvenir). If you're a fair way ahead you can sit back and rest as the cursor catches up.

The effect, as seen by the receiving station, is of a punched paper tape being sent through a tape transmitter at 'machine speed', the fastest speed possible at the baud rate you're using. Your keyboard is the tape punch, and when you get ahead you're simply piling up a loop of unsent tape, before it gets pulled through the reader.

#### **AA = AUTOSEND**

This mode will make a lousy typist look good to the person on the other end, at least for a while. Here you can prepare your outgoing text in advance on the lower screen, while still receiving from the other station on the upper screen. Any mistakes you make can be fixed up with BACK SPACE. When your turn comes to send, you hit AA. The program sends eight LTRS then CRLF, and then the little cursor starts sending your copy from the beginning of the lower screen.

As it's stepping along at machine speed you can be adding further text at the end of what's already there. Eventually though, the cursor will catch up with you (unless you're a speed demon), and you'll be back to sending at your 'hunt and peck' speed. If you're clever you'll turn it over to the other station just before this happens, and your crummy typing will remain a secret.

#### **AR = REPEATING**

This mode repeats the first line of the transmit screen over and over and over and over. This is your test message generator or automatic 'CQ' caller. You can set it up with such things as "THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPED OVER THE LAZY DOG" (very traditional) or "RYRYRYR- RYRYRYRY" or "TOM MOFFAT IS A SEX SYMBOL". If the line is terminated by <RETURN> a CRLF will be sent at the end of each line. If the <RETURN> is omitted at the end of a few RYs the system will produce a continuous string of 'reversals', a standard teletype test signal.

You can get out of the repeating mode by hitting AA, AS, AC, or RESET. If you select AUTOSEND (AA) just as the cursor comes to the end of the first line, the program will send the first line once more and then continue on through the rest of the transmit screen. So you can set up the first line to send "CQ CQ CQ DE VK7TM VK7TM VK7TM" and the second line to say something like "CALLING FROM HOBART, TASMANIA . . . PSE KKK". If you start with AR the CQs will repeat several times; you then hit AA to finish your CQ call in style.

#### **AI = IDENTIFY**

This command will cause the station identi-

fication to be entered at your current location on the transmit screen. You can see how the command has been used in the two way contact shown in Figure 1. The data comes from the 32 byte long memory area 'IDENT' which you must program as part of the initial setting up procedure for the system. This will be described in detail shortly.

#### **AB = BRAG TAPE**

When you issue this command your entire transmit screen will be wiped and replaced with the contents of a 512 byte memory area 'BRGST'. The transmit cursor will then send the entire screen. This is an electronic version of the traditional 'brag tape' that every RTTY amateur has available to send at the drop of a hat. The brag tape usually raves on about what a brilliant system the amateur is using. Sending a brag tape normally triggers the transmission of a similar message from the other station, so watch out!

As the brag tape is being sent you can add even more waffle at the end, scrolling already sent material off the top. (Remember not to scroll off the line containing the transmit cursor.)

#### **AW = WRITE BRAG TAPE**

During the moment when you're not 'on air' you can write up a description of your station, inflating the facts as required. Once complete, you press AW and the whole lower screen is copied to the memory area BRGST, from where it can be recovered by AB as above. If you now re-record the RTTYTX program to cassette your brag tape will be recorded with it. It will be automatically loaded next time you load the program into the computer.

#### **ADEL = ERASE WHOLE TRANSMIT SCREEN**

Notice that two keys, CTRL and DEL, are required for this command, to prevent any embarrassing accidents. There's nothing worse than composing a whole screen full of gripping text, only to have it sent to oblivion by the slip of a finger. You'll find you use this command before you start writing your material for each new 'over', or before you write a new brag tape.

#### **AC (BREAK) = RECEIVE**

This command sends CRLF, then eight LTRS, and then switches the RTTY transceiver into the receive mode, turning off the station transmitter in the process. When the system is finished transmitting some item such as your brag tape, at machine speed it reverts to the SEND mode so you can add further comments. The only way to get back into the receive mode is via the RECEIVE command, or by using RESET. The system of course initialises in the receive mode.

```
IN VK7TM VK7TM DE "TERRY" VK4AAT VK4AAT FB TOM AND OK WILL TELL
THE BOYS UP HERE IN THE S.E.Q.T.G.
ABOUT THE COMING PROJECT..SOUNDS GOOD...YES ITS QUITE WARM
HERE TODAY. MY SHACK IS LOCATED IN THE BACK OF MY GARAGE
AND ALTHOUGH ITS LINES ETS ETC IT GETS QUITE WAROV..THJ THE
TEMP AT THE MOMENT IS 26C 26C...WELL TOM THANKS FOR THAT
I GET MOST OF OUR NEWS FROM VK3 VK2TTY AND A LITTLE LOCAL
CONTENT SO ALWAYS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING DIFFERENT...
I BROADCAST THE NEWS ON 40M AND ALSO ON OUR GROUPS REPEATER
VK4RBT ON MONDAY EYOUNGP AT UPPZ ON 70ET KHZ, BUT AT THE
MOVENT AS I N THE ONLY ONE I DONT THJ CALL BVIMVIVVMWQPM10MVM
PK ON I HOPE TO GET SOME ELSE TO TAKE
THE 2M CALL BACKS AND I WILL TAKE THE 40M....
SO THATS ABOUT IT HI HI BTU TOM
VK7TM VK7TM DE "TERRY" VK4AAT VK4AAT PSE KKKK
```

```
VK4AAT DE VK7TM, FERN TREE, TASMANIA . . . OK TERRY GOT MOST OF
THAT EXCEPT THAT SOMEBODY DROPPED A WHACKING BIG CARRIER ON TOP
OF YOU JUST BEFORE YOU TURNED IT OVER. CERTAINLY FEEL FREE TO
USE THE INFO ON THE NEW RTTY PROJECT ON YOUR BROADCAST... BUT
WHAT TIME AND FREQUENCY IS IT ON? I MAY HAVE A LISTEN TO MAKE
SURE I HAVEN'T BEEN LIBELED OR SOMETHING... HI . . .
VK4AAT DE VK7TM PSE KKKK
```

Figure 1. Screen dump of an actual contact showing the received text on the upper part of the screen (above the line) and the text ready to send below the line.

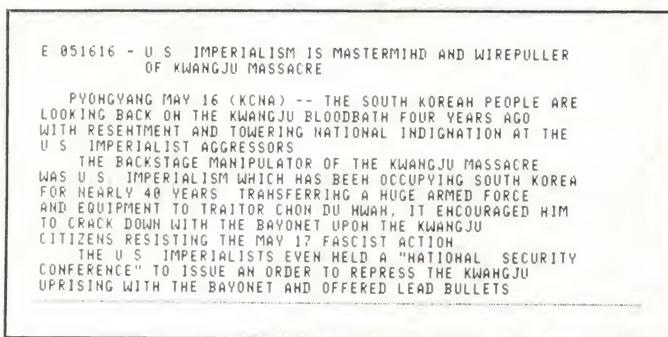


Figure 2. Korean Central News Agency transmission (KCNA) with the project operated in the normal 'page' mode. Note, this is a screen dump.

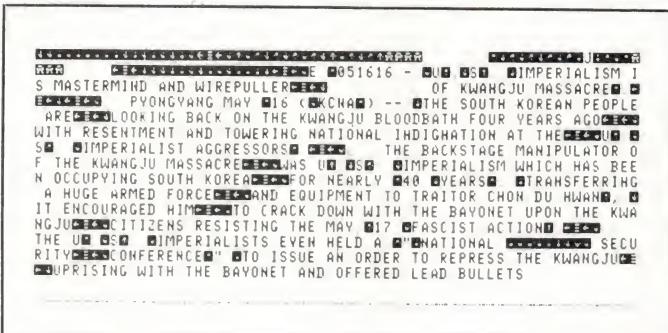


Figure 3. KCNA transmission received in the 'tape' mode, showing the letters shift, 'bell' codes, etc. (Also a screen dump, as per Figure 2).

### RESET

This is the 'all stop' command, the *panic button*. The program reruns from scratch, turning the transmitter off and re-initialising everything. You will be left with the dividing line on the screen and nothing else. However your brag tape and station identification data will still be intact. The only more sure fire shutdown method is to pull out the mains plug.

Some further commands apply to the receiving side of the system. These are 'toggle' commands; the toggle commands are invoked when you press the key, and cancelled when you press the same key again. These commands will produce inverse characters on the transmit screen as confirmation that they have been issued. The characters will be ignored by the transmit cursor.

### $\wedge T$ = TAPE MODE

This mode simulates a paper tape printer, as opposed to a page printer. The received copy is printed continuously on the screen, with carriage returns and line feeds occurring only when each line is full. Words are split apart with gay abandon! This mode also shows the 'non-print' control characters as they are received, in inverse video. These are carriage return, line feed, figures and letters shift, blank, and bell.

Figure 2 shows a screen printout of a transmission from the Korean Central News Agency, in the normal 'page' mode. This was made at the start of a transmitting session, after the station had been sending RYs

for a while.

Figure 3 shows the same thing, only in 'tape' mode. Notice the top line . . . letters shifts, used as a leader on the punched tape, followed by alternating letters and figures shifts for some reason, and then a few 'bells' to wake up the operator on the receiving end. After that the text begins, with carriage returns, line feeds, and figures and letters shifts sprinkled throughout.

Tape mode may not be pretty to look at, but it makes a handy diagnostic aid, and it makes copy easier under very rough conditions when the normal carriage returns and line feeds may be mangled.

### $\wedge F$ = FORCE

If you are receiving in figures case,  $\wedge F$  will force it to letters. If you are in letters,  $\wedge F$  will force the case to figures. Useful if a transmission error accidentally changes the case or causes you to miss a shift character . . . you can change it yourself.

### $\wedge P$ = PRINTER

Enables or disables the system output to a 1200 baud serial printer. Everything goes to the printer, both transmit and receive copy. The KCNA transmission discussed above is shown in Figure 4 as it appears on a normal dot matrix printer. The serial printer option is the only one available. The parallel port already has an RTTY transceiver plugged into it.

### Customising the program for your station

The program, as published, has in its identi-

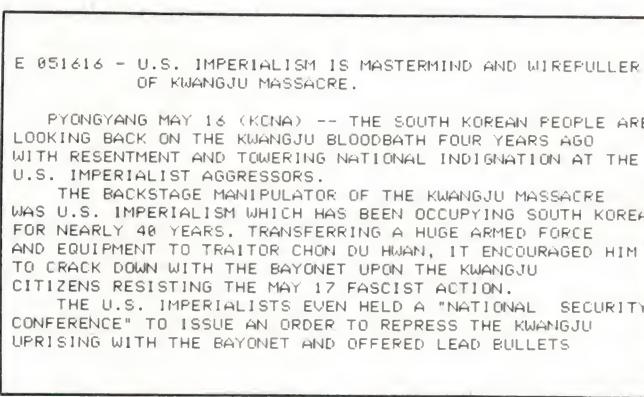


Figure 4. KCNA transmission as it would appear on a dot matrix printout straight off your Microbee.

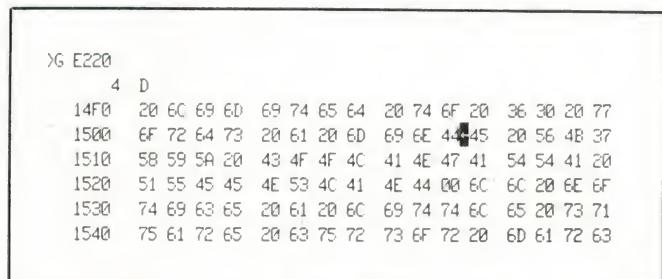


Figure 5. Customising the station ident — this should appear on your screen at the start of the procedure.

fication store "DE VK7XYZ COOLANGATTA QUEENSLAND". You must change this to your own call sign and location. The existing message is exactly 32 characters long, the maximum allowed in the IDENT store. It's a 'rubbish' callsign, purposely incorrect, so don't let it go to air. You must do some editing to effect the change; the system was planned this way to prevent any keyboard accidents during on-air operation from messing up your station ID.

First, under BASIC, load the 'virgin' program from your cassette. Hit  $\wedge I$  and the above message should appear after the inverse video  $\wedge T$ . Next, cold-start the computer using ESC and RESET. Now enter your system monitor mode, using 'M' and RESET as per the Microbee's instructions. If you don't have Wordbee or EDASM, and consequently no monitor, you should be doing this on someone else's 'Bee'.

With the monitor fired up, give the command "E 150A" and the display shown in Figure 5 should appear on the screen. (Ignore the "G E220"; that called the screen dump routine.) You will see the cursor pointing at 44, and "D" shown at the top of the display. Now step the cursor along with  $\wedge S$ , and the "D" will show the ASCII meaning of each byte; D-E- -V-K-7-X-Y-Z etc. After "QUEENSLAND" you will encounter the byte "00", two lines below where you started. This tells the computer the end of the ident has been reached. The last byte MUST be "00".

Now get your trusty Microbee user's manual and turn to the "ASCII-HEXA-DECIMAL-DECIMAL TABLE" in the appendix. Make up your own little table for

your own ident, using the HEX values, as follows:

D	44
E	45
(SPC)	20
V	56
K	4B
7	37
T	54
M	4D
(SPC)	20
H	48
O	4F
B	42

... and so on until your station ident is complete. Next, get the monitor cursor back to 150A, issue the 'M' for modify command and start typing in the bytes from your table: 44 45 20 56 etc. They'll replace the bytes that are already there. If you're using fewer than 32 characters, fill the rest of the store with 00s, until you reach the byte at 152A, where you stop. You can now record your customised version of the program back onto another cassette.

### Making it all work

Now's the time to plug all the stuff together ... and pray. First your receiver (or receivers): the best way to tap in is via a 'recording' connection, or through your own connection to the 'high' side of the volume control. This eliminates the receiver's audio circuits from the system. Some are quite distorted, and performance is generally better if the receiver's audio is avoided. In a pinch you can tap off the speaker terminals.

Transmit audio should have been organised as part of last month's construction article. If you put it off, do it now. But leave the transmitter keying circuit disabled for the time being.

Now connect the RTTY transceiver to your computer's parallel port and fire it up. With some audio (probably noise) coming from the receiver, the tuning indicators should be jumping around and the framing error LED may be flashing on and off.

Next, load your new customised tape under BASIC; it should autostart, showing the dotted line and possibly printing random characters on the upper screen. Now operate AI and YOUR station ident should appear on the lower screen, with the little square cursor sending it out at machine speed. Hitting BREAK should restore the system to receive. Now try  $\wedge$ B (BRAG TAPE). If you are using a purchased tape, an interesting message should appear on the lower screen, with the cursor sending it out as before. Note that the message isn't really going anywhere as you have disconnected the transmitter keying line (I hope ...).

Hit BREAK again, and then  $\wedge$ DEL which should clear the screen. Now try some typing, using the SEND and AUTO-SEND modes as described earlier. You'll soon get the hang of it. Make sure you can control the transmit functions with confidence before you use the system on air.

Now let's receive some teletype. It's best to try for one of the professional broadcasters before trying to capture a weaker and harder-to-tune amateur signal. A good one to look for is Australia's weather station

AXM. It transmits RTTY during the first half of the hour on 11 030 kHz, as well as some other frequencies. The copy consists mostly of groups of five numbers. More interesting copy is available from the KCNA station shown in Figures 2, 3 and 4. It's about the strongest and easiest to copy 'press' service at the moment, transmitting on 13 780 kHz and 15 633 kHz.

When you find a station (listen for the "doodle-doodle" sound), tune your receiver so that the MARK indicator is jumping up with the higher audio tone. Now vary the shift control so the SPACE indicator is in step with the lower tone. The two indicators should now be jumping in opposition to each other. (Hint: AXM's tones are 850 Hz apart, KNCA's are 440 Hz apart. They both send at 50 bauds.) This procedure may seem a bit messy at first but you'll soon get used to it.

For amateur signals, start with the shift set for 170 Hz, as this is what most amateur stations use. If you have the input filter option, switch it on for narrow shift; it will make a remarkable difference in a crowded amateur band.

If the framing error LED is flashing when you tune a signal, switch your receiver to the other sideband, or operate the mark-high/mark-low switch. Framing errors are signalled when the UART finds an expected stop pulse is missing and calls a foul. This is usually the result of upside-down signals, the wrong baud rate, some code other than Baudot, or the occasional transmission error. You will not get printable copy while the framing error LED is flashing.

As you can see there are lots of variables when tuning RTTY signals. You may get frustrated at first, and swear up and down that the system doesn't work. Well, the program listing is a photograph of the actual listing of the working program as generated by the computer. There are no mistakes.

I'll always remember a letter I got about the ETI-733 project. "It's common knowledge all over Sydney that the project does not work," it said. The inference was that a whole magazine project had been developed and published to produce a device that didn't work. Please be assured that the 733 project does work, if you read the instructions. You can also be assured that this new RTTY project does work, if you read the you-know-whats.

Many receiving problems are the result of noise from the Microbee getting into the receiver. The Microbee doesn't have the shielding that some of the imported models have, and it's a very noisy computer. This is of little consequence in Australia, except when a sensitive HF receiver is sitting right next to it. There are a couple of measures that can minimise the noise.

Try to get some physical distance between the receiver and the computer. Also, make sure you're using a *good* outside aerial, to get as much desired signal into the receiver as possible. This will reduce its gain (via the AGC), and with it, the influence of the Microbee. Most amateur radio installations have quite good aerial systems, and in my own case I can only hear computer noise when the bands are really dead. That's a good time to give up, anyhow, and wait for things to improve.

## Project 755

### Using the '755 with other computers

Although the RTTY transceiver was designed with the Microbee in mind, it should work well with certain other computers. The Microbee program as it stands would be useless, of course, and anything for another computer would have to be written from scratch (and I ain't a-goin' to do it, so there!).

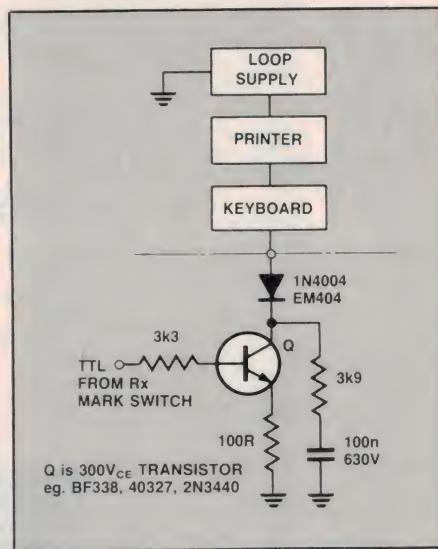
Certain allowances have been made, however, to make the '755 interface as universal as possible. Proper handshake lines haven't been used at all, as certain computers require signals different from others. The '755 should work with any computer using an input/output chip that can be programmed so some data bits are inputs while others are outputs. In other words it must make use of a 'data direction register' or DDR.

Fortunately, many of the popular cheaper computers have this facility. They include the VIC-20's VIA (Versatile Interface Adaptor) and the Commodore 64's CIA (Complex Interface Adaptor).

Other chips to look for in a likely computer are the Z-80 Parallel Input-Output, or PIO, (as in the Microbee) and the 6821 Peripheral Interface Adaptor (PIA) as used in many 6800, 6809, and 6502-based machines.

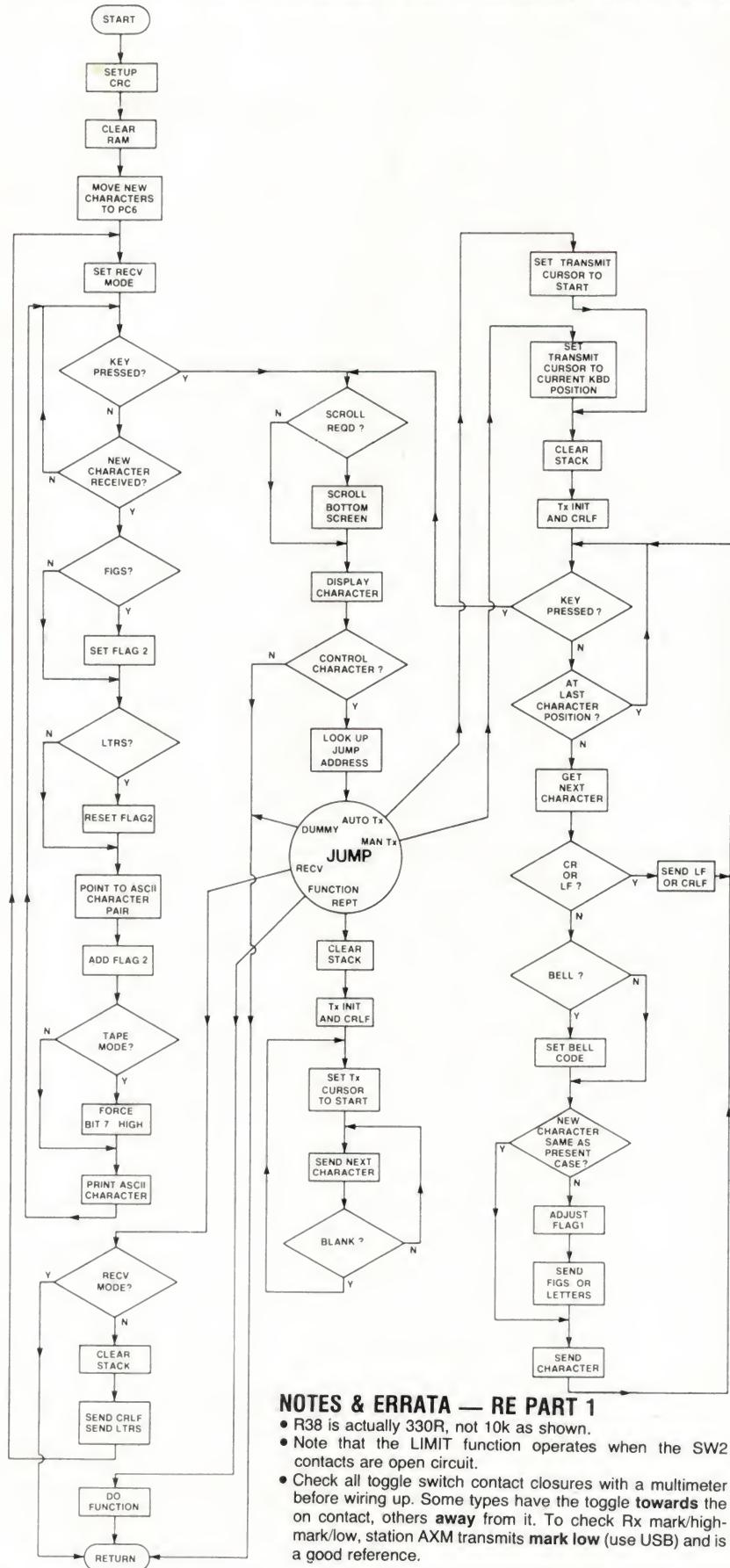
If you've ever had to deal with some of these chips you probably have your own names for them that can't be printed here!

Surprisingly, many of the more expensive computers don't have on-board input/output chips ... you are expected to shell out for some kind of 'expansion interface' if you want one to hook up anything non-standard. So be warned.



**Teletype current loop interface.** This circuit drives a mechanical teletype machine. Connect the input to the moving contact of SW3, the RX mark high/low switch. The ground connection should be made on the power supply board.

An attempt to flow chart the machine code program for the RTTY modem. Although not strictly following all the rules of flow charting, this diagram should at least be an aid to understanding the logic of the program.



#### NOTES & ERRATA — RE PART 1

- R38 is actually 330R, not 10k as shown.
- Note that the LIMIT function operates when the SW2 contacts are open circuit.
- Check all toggle switch contact closures with a multimeter before wiring up. Some types have the toggle **towards** the on contact, others **away** from it. To check Rx mark/high-mark/low, station AXM transmits **mark low** (use USB) and is a good reference.

Eight data lines and a common ground connect the ETI-755 with its host computer. Bit 7 is the send/receive switch, and is always programmed as an output with the DDR. Logic *low* is *send*, and *high* is *receive*.

Bit 6 is the strobe line (active low). It tells the transmitter to send, and resets the 'data available' indication from the receiver. It is always programmed as an output.

Bit 5 (active high) tells the computer that a new character is available during receive, and that the transmit buffer can accept a new character during send. It is always programmed as an input.

**Bits 4 through 0** are the five teletype data bits, and the DDR sets them as either inputs or outputs depending on whether the system is receiving or sending.

When writing your software you must ensure you do things in the right order. When going into the receive mode, you must change the lower five DDR bits to INPUT before sending data bit 7, the send/receive switch, high. Likewise, when going into transmit you must set bit 7 low before making the data bits into OUTPUTS.

The UART has its input and output states as well, and if you have both the in/out chip and the UART trying to output to the same data lines, dire consequences (blown chips) could result.

#### Some notes on the program

I will not try to explain in detail how the program works. If you look at the flow chart you'll see why ... the program runs around in circles, jumps into subroutines and comes out as straight-line code, and generally makes a nuisance of itself. But it seems to work nicely.

When the program starts, it first reformats the screen for 25 character rows. That's 16 for the upper screen, one for the dotted line, and eight for the lower screen. The screen width has been kept at 64 characters to maintain compatibility with the older Microbees that would otherwise slop over the edges of their TV screens.

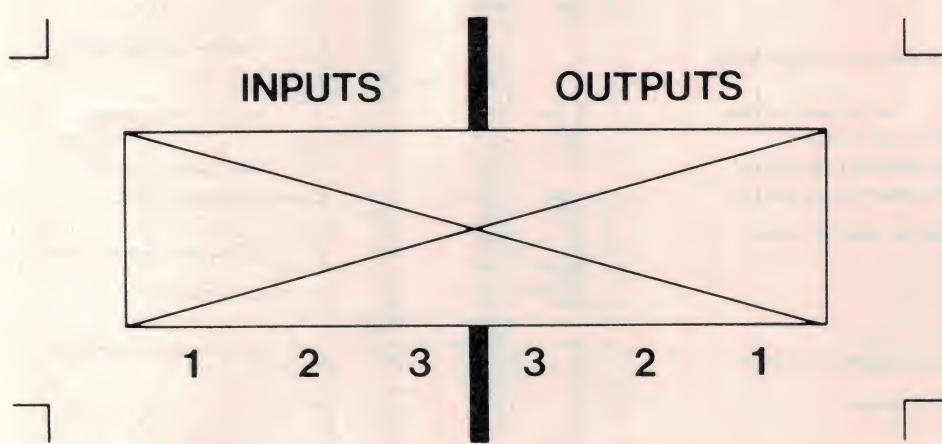
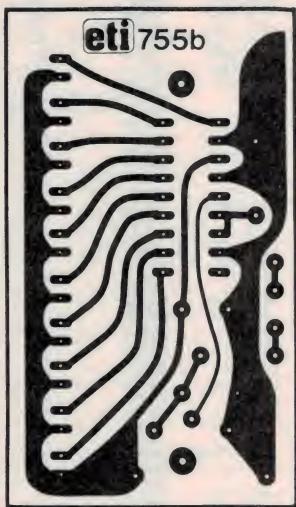
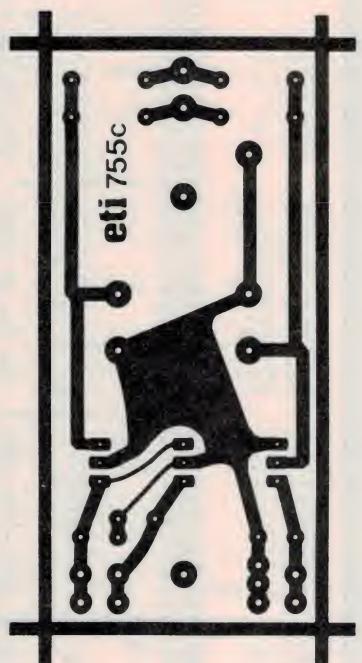
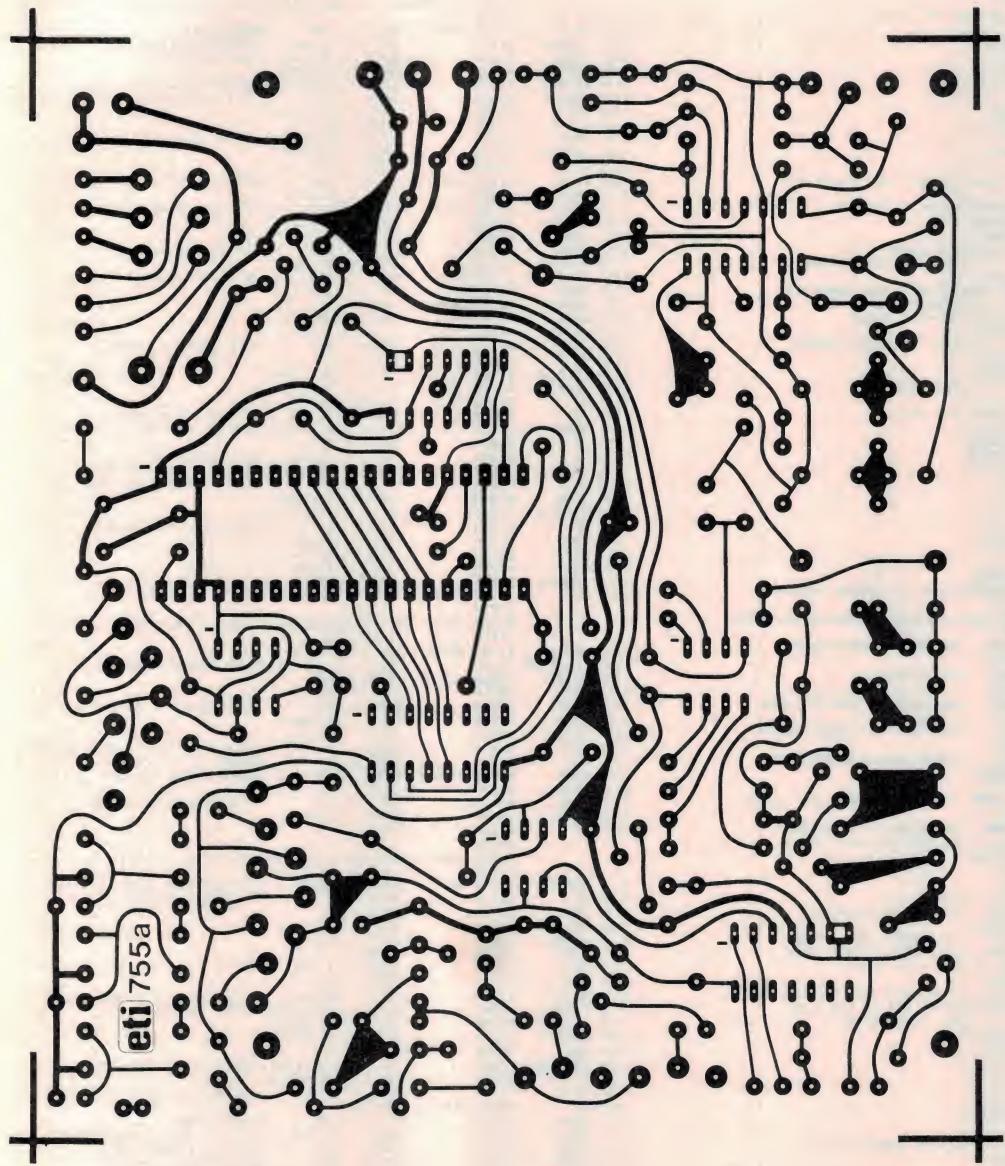
The program has what amounts to two mainlines, the receive stream on the left and the transmit stream on the right. It spends most of its time in one of the shaded loops, waiting for something to happen. When the proper keys are pressed, program control transfers from one side to the other, via that great jumping roundabout in the middle. The slack pointer has to be fiddled from time to time to change what started as a subroutine call into a straight out jump.

Understand it now? That's all right, I don't either most of the time and I wrote the damn thing!

The program listing is presented in two parts: the source code and a hex dump the special character set. The lower case part of the character set isn't used in this program, but it's been included in the listing in case you want to use the whole character set for one of your own projects.

If you find this all a bit much and would prefer to get on with the RTTY, you can obtain a cassette of the entire program, ready to go (except for inserting your own station ident), for \$18.50 post paid. Send your hard-earned bucks to *High-Tech, Tasmania, 39 Pillinger Drive, Fern Tree 7101*.

See you on the air! ▶

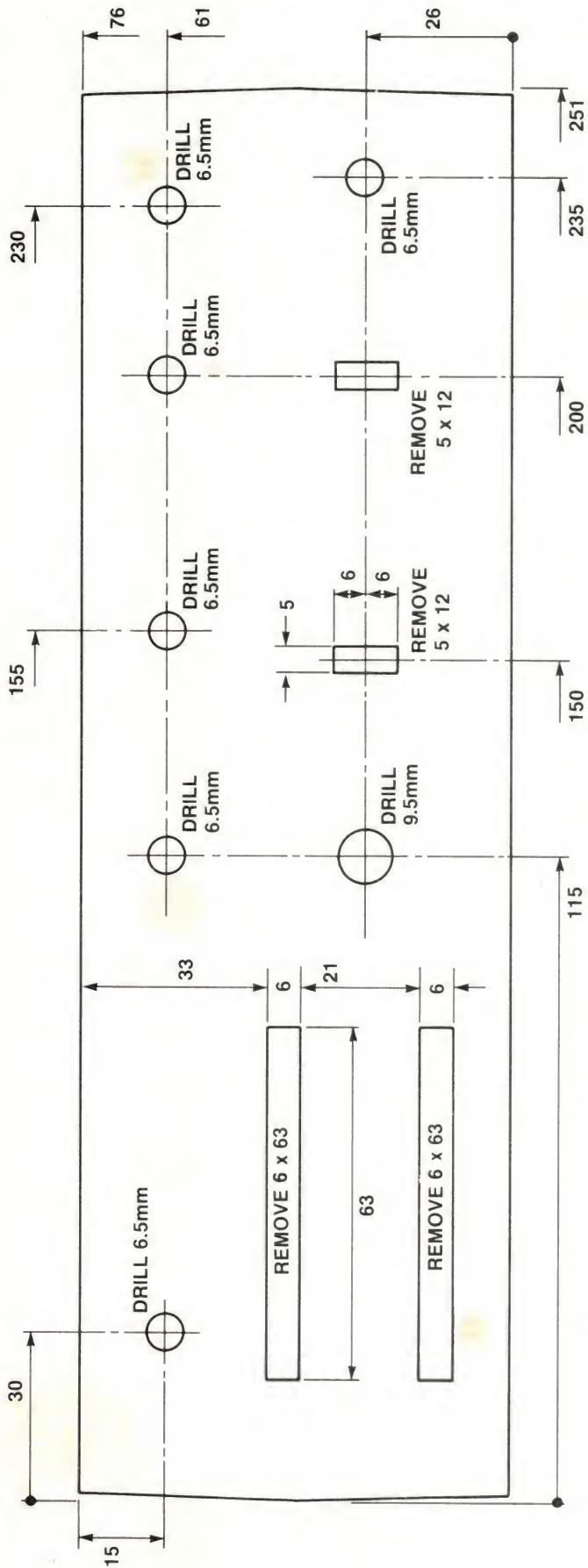
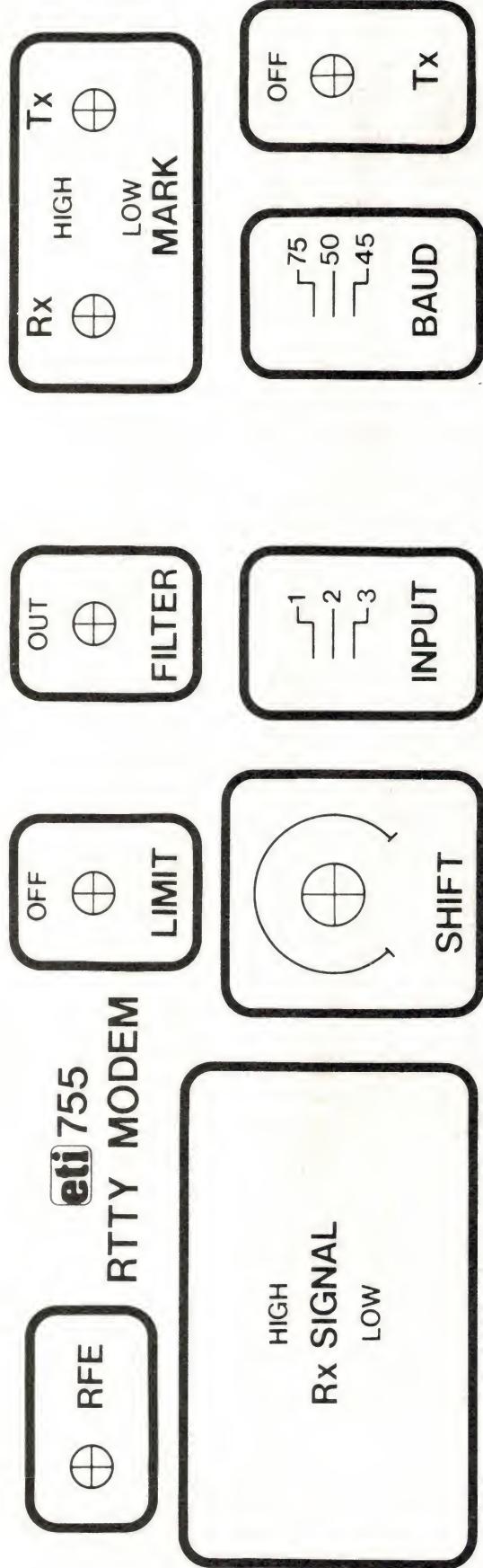


POWER || Tx RELAY

1000 210000 00150 LD HL,(HL) ;SET UP RESTART ADDRESS  
1003 224200 00160 LD (BAZ),HL  
00170  
00180 ;Set up CRT Controller for 25 lines.  
00190  
1005 213B12 00190 LD HL,CRC  
00195 LD B,5  
1006 2E 00220 SETUP LD A,(HL)  
1007 D9C 00225 OUT (0CH),A  
1008 23 00240 INC HL  
1009 7E 00250 LD A,(HL)  
1010 3D0D 00260 OUT (0DH),H  
1012 23 00270 INC HL  
1013 1F6 00280 DJNZ SETUP  
00290  
00300 ;Draw dotted line, clear screen ram, clear PCG.  
00310  
1015 210000 00320 LD HL,0F000;START OF SCREEN  
1016 181F8 00330 LD DE,0F001  
1018 010004 00340 LD BC,400  
101E 3a08 00350 LD (HL),0H;PCG BLANK  
1020 EDE8 00360 LDIR ;FILL RECEIVE SCREEN  
1022 014000 00370 LD BC,40  
1025 369E 00380 LD (HL),9EH;DOTTED LINE CHARACTER  
1027 ED00 00390 LDIR ;DRAW DOTTED LINE  
1029 3c20 00400 LD (HL),20 ;NON-PCG BLANK  
102B 01C003 00410 LD BC,3C0  
102E ED00 00420 LDIR ;FILL TRANSMIT SCREEN  
1030 3a08 00430 LD (HL),0  
1032 010005 00440 LD BC,800  
1035 ED00 00450 LDIR ;FILL PCG  
00460  
00470 ;Move 8-byte characters into PCG.  
00480  
1037 212B15 00490 LD HL,CHARS  
1034 110F8 00500 LD DE,0F000  
1020 010000 00510 MOVE LD BC,8  
1048 ED00 00520 LDIR  
1042 3E08 00530 LD A,8  
1044 13 00540 INC DE  
1045 3D 00550 DEC A  
1046 20FC 00560 JR NZ,B-2  
1048 7A 00570 LD A,D  
1049 B7 00580 OR A  
104A 20F1 00590 JR NZ,MOVE  
104C DD213FF4 00600 LD IX,0F43FH;START OF LOWER SCREEN  
00610  
00620 ;Enter receive mode, checking both keyboard and UART.  
00630  
1058 3ECF 00640 RECV LD A,8CFH ;SET PIO CONTROL MODE  
1052 D391 00650 OUT (1),A  
1054 3E3F 00660 LD A,3FH ;DDR = 00111111  
1056 D391 00670 OUT (1),A  
1058 3EC9 00680 LD A,8CB ;SET UART TO RECEIVE MODE  
1054 D300 00690 OUT (0),A  
105C CD4611 00700 RXKEY CALL KEY ;GET KEY FOR LOWER SCREEN  
105F DB00 00710 IN A,(0)  
1061 CBAF 00720 BIT Z,A ;CHECK UART FOR NEW CHAR  
1063 28F7 00730 JR Z,RXKEY  
00740  
00750 ;Get character from UART and display on upper screen.  
00760  
1065 C05F11 00770 CALL STROBE ;RESET DAV FLAG IN UART  
1068 E61F 00780 AND IFH ;SELECT DATA BITS ONLY  
106A 218512 00790 LD HL,TXTAB  
106D 1600 00800 LD D,0  
106F 5F 00810 LD E,A  
1070 CB23 00820 SLA E ;E=E+2  
1072 19 00830 ADD HL,DE ;ADD CHR TO POINTER  
1073 110613 00840 LD DE,FLG2  
1076 FE1B 00850 CP 1BH ;IS BAUDOT CODE <FIGS> ?  
1078 2003 00860 JR NZ,B+5 ;SKIP NEXT IF NOT FIGS  
107A 3E81 00870 LD A,1 ;SET FLAG <FIGS>  
107C 12 00880 LD (DE),A  
107D FE1F 00890 CP 1FH ;IS BAUDOT CODE <LTRS> ?  
107F 2002 00900 JR NZ,B+4 ;SKIP NEXT IF NOT LTRS  
1081 AF 00910 XOR A ;SET FLAG <LTRS>  
1082 12 00920 LD (DE),A  
1083 EB 00930 EX,DE,HL  
1084 6E 00940 LD L,(HL)  
1085 2600 00950 LD H,0  
1087 19 00960 ADD HL,DE  
1088 5E 00970 LD E,(HL)  
1089 3A0713 00980 LD A,(FLHG3)  
108C B3 00990 OR E  
108D CD4200 01000 CALL 8042 ;OUTPUT CHAR TO VDU.  
1090 18CA 01010 JR RXKEY  
01020  
1092 DB00 01030 RXJHP IN A,(0) ;TEST TX/RX SWITCH  
1094 E600 01040 AND S0  
1095 40 01050 RET NZ ;IF ALREADY IN RECV MODE  
1097 D1 01060 POP DE ;CLEAR RET ADDR FROM STACK  
1098 CD1211 01070 CALL CRLF  
109B CD2012 01080 CALL LTRS  
109E 1800 01090 JR PECU  
01100  
10A0 210A13 01110 BRGRD LD HL,BRGST;MOVE BRAG TAPE TO LOWER SCREEN  
10A3 1140F4 01120 LD DE,0F440  
10A6 010002 01130 LD BC,200  
10A9 ED00 01140 LDIR  
10AB DD2A0813 01150 LD IX,(BRGIX) ;GET KEYBOARD POINTER  
01160  
01170 ;Enter transmit mode while checking keyboard.  
01180  
10AF FD2140F4 01190 AUTOTX LD IY,0F440;FROM START OF LOWER SCREEN  
10B3 1807 01200 JR TX  
10B5 CDCE11 01210 MANUTX CALL CR ;FROM PRESENT CURSOR POSITION  
10B8 DDE5 01220 PUSH IX  
10B9 A0E1 01230 POP IY  
10BC D1 01240 TX POP DE ;CLEAR RET ADDR OFF STACK  
10BD CD2112 01250 CALL TXINIT  
10C0 CC1211 01260 CALL CRLF  
10C3 CD6611 01270 TX1 CHLL FE,  
10C5 DDE5 01280 PUSH IY  
10C8 E1 01290 POP HL  
10C9 FDE1 01300 PUSH IY  
10CB D1 01310 POP DE  
10CC E1D2 01320 SBC H,DE  
10LE 38F8 01330 JP C,TX1 ;IF KEY POINTER = TX POINTER  
10DE FD7E00 01340 LD A,(IY)  
10D3 C674 01350 BIT 7,A  
10D6 FD23 01360 CHLL NZ,SEND ;IF NOT A BLANK  
10H 18E7 01370 INC IY  
01380 JF T-1  
01390  
10D1 E1 01400 REPT POP DE ;CLEAR STACK  
10D0 CD2112 01410 CHLL T-INIT

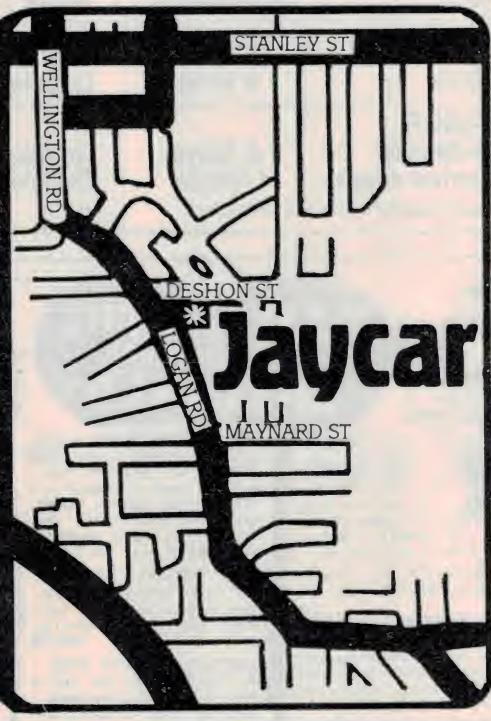
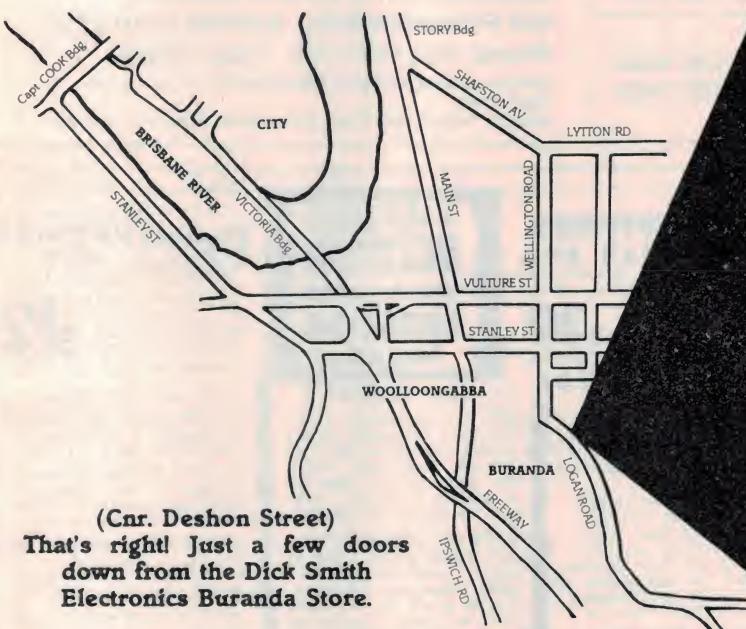
02768  
 02770 DEL LD HL,0F63FH;CLEAR LOWER SCREEN  
 02780 DEFL DE,0F63EH  
 02790 LD 8C,1FFH  
 02800 LD (HL),20 ;NON-PCG BLANK  
 02810 LDDP PUSH DE  
 02820 POP IX ;SET VDU POINTER TO START  
 02830 RET  
 02840 RET  
 02850 RET  
 02860 TAPE LD HL,FLAG3;UPPER SCREEN TAPE OR PAGE MOD  
 02870 LD A,BB  
 02880 JR TOGGLE  
 02890  
 02899  
 02900 CASE LD HL,FLAG2;FORCE FIGS/LTRS SHIFT  
 02910 LD A,1  
 02920 JR TOGGLE  
 02930  
 02940 PRINTR LD HL,0E28 ;PRINTER ON OR OFF  
 02950 LD A,20  
 02960 TOGGLE XOR (HL)  
 02970 LD (HL),A  
 02980 RET  
 02990  
 02999  
 03000 BROWR LD (BRGIX),IX;RECORD BRAG TAPE  
 03010 LD HL,0F440  
 03020 LD DE,BRGST  
 03030 LD BC,200  
 03040 LDIR  
 03050 RET  
 03060  
 03070 IDENT LD HL,1DENST;SEND THE STATION CALL SIGN  
 03080 LD A,(HL)  
 03090 OR A,  
 03100 RET Z  
 03110 CALL KEY+3  
 03120 INC HL  
 03130 JR IDENT+3  
 03140  
 03150 TXINIT LD A,40 ;01000000  
 03160 OUT (0),A ;SET UART FOR TX  
 03170 LD A,0CFH ;SET PIO FOR CONTROL MODE  
 03180 OUT (1),A  
 03190 LD A,20 ;DDR = 00100000  
 03200 OUT (1),A  
 03210 LTRS LD E,1FH ;TTY "LTRS" CHR.  
 03220 LD B,8  
 03230 CALL SENDI  
 03240 DJNZ \$-3  
 03250 XOR A  
 03260 LD (FLAG1),A  
 03270 DUMMY RET ;FOR UNASSIGNED JUMP DESTINATIONS  
 03280  
 03290 CRC DEFW 1E04 ;DATA FOR CRT CONTROLLER  
 03300 DEFW 205  
 03310 DEFW 1996  
 03320 DEFW 1B07  
 03330 DEFW 99F  
 03340  
 03350 JHPTSL DEFW DUMMY ;0E ^2  
 03360 DEFU AUTOTX ;01 ^A  
 03370 DEFU BRGRD ;02 ^B  
 03380 DEFU RXJMP ;03 ^C  
 03390 DEFU DUMMY ;04 ^D  
 03400 DEFU DUMMY ;05 ^E  
 03410 DEFU CASE ;06 ^F  
 03420 DEFU DUMMY ;07 BELL  
 03430 DEFU BS ;08 BACKSPACE  
 03440 DEFU IDENT ;09 ^1  
 03450 DEFU LF ;0A LINE FEED  
 03460 DEFU DUMMY ;0B ^K  
 03470 DEFU DUMMY ;0C ^L  
 03480 DEFU CR ;0D CARRIAGE RETURN  
 03490 DEFU DUMMY ;0E ^N  
 03500 DEFU DUMMY ;0F ^O  
 03510 DEFU PRINTR ;10 ^P  
 03520 DEFU DUMMY ;11 ^Q  
 03530 DEFU REPT ;12 ^R  
 03540 DEFU MANUTX ;13 ^S  
 03550 DEFU TAPE ;14 ^T  
 03560 DEFU DUMMY ;15 ^U  
 03570 DEFU DUMMY ;16 ^V  
 03580 DEFU BROWR ;17 ^W  
 03590 DEFU DUMMY ;18 ^X  
 03600 DEFU DUMMY ;19 ^Y  
 03610 DEFU DUMMY ;1A ^Z  
 03620 DEFU DUMMY ;1B ^{  
 03630 DEFU DUMMY ;1C ^}  
 03640 DEFU DUMMY ;1D ^]  
 03650 DEFU DUMMY ;1E ^^  
 03660 DEFU DEL ;1F ^ DELETE  
 03670  
 03680 ;ASCII lookup table arranged by Baudot value  
 03690  
 03700 RxTAB DEFW 1C1CH ;(BLANK)  
 03710 DEFW 0B3C5 ;E 3  
 03720 DEFW 0A0AH ;(LF)  
 03730 DEFW 0A0A0 ;(SPACE)  
 03740 DEFW 0A703 ;S  
 03750 DEFW 0B7D3 ;\$  
 03760 DEFW 0B8C9 ;! B  
 03770 DEFW 0B7D5 ;U 7  
 03780 DEFW 0B0DH ;(CR)  
 03790 DEFW 0A4C4 ;D  
 03800 DEFW 0B4D2 ;R 4  
 03810 DEFW 7CAH ;J (BELL)  
 03820 DEFW 0A4CCE ;N ,  
 03830 DEFW 0B4C6 ;F %  
 03840 DEFW 0B4C3 ;C :  
 03848 DEFW 0A4CBH ;K <  
 03868 DEFW 0B5D4 ;T 5  
 03870 DEFW 0A4C6H ;:  
 03880 DEFW 0A4CCH ;L )  
 03890 DEFW 0B5D5 ;W 2  
 03900 DEFW 0A4C8 ;M (STOP)  
 03918 DEFU 0B4D9 ;I 6  
 03928 DEFU 0B9E8 ;P 8  
 03938 DEFU 0B1D1 ;O 1  
 03945 DEFU 0B5CFH ;O 9  
 03948 DEFU 0B5CFH ;O ?  
 03950 DEFU 0BFCF2 ;B ?  
 03954 DEFU 0A4C7 ;G #  
 03978 DEFU 1919 ;FIGS-  
 03980 DEFU 0AECGH ;M .  
 03988 DEFU 0AECFH ;M -  
 03990 DEFU 0A6FDB ;X /  
 03998 DEFU 0B0D6 ;V =  
 04010 DEFU 1A1HH ;(LTRS)  
 04020  
 04030 ;Baudot character table, arranged by ASCII value.  
 04040  
 04050 TATB DEFW 9C84 ;(SPC) '  
 04060 DEFW 9485 ;" "  
 04070 DEFW 8D9AH ;@ %  
 04080 DEFW B58BH ;& ^  
 04090 DEFW 92BFH ;  
 04100 DEFW 911H ;# ^  
 04110 DEFW 838CH ;  
 04120 DEFW 9D9CH ;  
 04130 DEFW 9796 ;  
 04140 DEFW 8193 ;12 3  
 04150 DEFW 988AH ;14 5  
 04160 DEFW 8795 ;16 7  
 04170 DEFW 9886 ;18 9  
 04180 DEFW 8CBEH ;11 1  
 04190 DEFW 9E8FH ;1 = 1  
 04200 DEFW 9992 ;1 > ?  
 04210 DEFW 38BH ;  
 04220 DEFW 0E19 ;1B C  
 04230 DEFW 109 ;D E  
 04240 DEFW 1A00H ;F G  
 04250 DEFW 614 ;H I  
 04260 DEFW 9F68H ;J K  
 04270 DEFW 1C12 ;L M  
 04280 DEFW 1B0CH ;N O  
 04290 DEFW 1716 ;P O  
 04300 DEFW 50AH ;R S  
 04310 DEFW 710 ;T U  
 04320 DEFW 131EH ;V W  
 04330 DEFW 151DH ;X Y  
 04340 DEFW 8F11 ;Z [  
 04350 DEFW 929CH ;\ ]  
 04360 DEFW 888BH ;^ -  
 04370  
 04380 FLAG1 DEFB 0  
 04390 FLAG2 DEFB 0  
 04400 FLAG3 DEFB 0  
 04410 BRGIX DEFW 0F440  
 04420 BRGST DEFS 280  
 04430 IDENST DEHF ;DE UKXYZ COOLANGATTA QUEENSLAND  
 04440  
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 04460 CHARS EOU \* ;CHARACTER SET GOES HERE  
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# Project 755

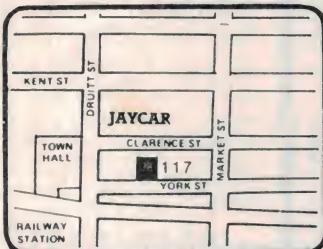


# SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

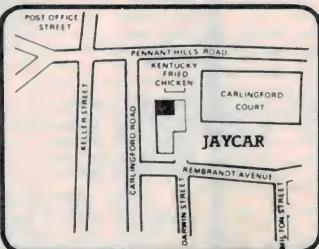
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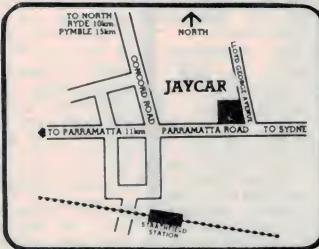
## JAYCAR SYDNEY LOCATIONS



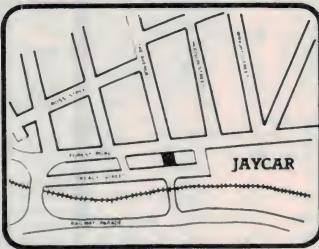
SYDNEY - 117 York Street,  
 Phone: (02) 267 1614



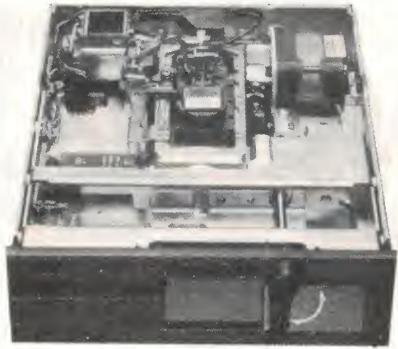
CARLINGFORD -  
 Cnr. Carlingford & Pennant  
 Hills Road.  
 Phone: (02) 872 4444



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FD-35F	1Mbyte	Double sided 160 track
FD-55A	250 Kbytes	Single sided 40 track
FD-55B	500 Kbytes	Double sided 80 track
FD-55E	500 Kbytes	Single sided 80 track
FD-55F	1Mbyte	Double sided 160 track
FD-55G	1.6 Mbyte	Double sided 160 track
*FD-55GF		
Hi-density	1.6 Mbyte	Double sided 154 track
Normal density	1 Mbyte	Double sided 160 track

\*Switchable between high and normal density.



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etc. Other sizes available!  
5 INCH 115V AC...\$6.00  
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Complete home security system with a push-button entry/exit code, siren module and 4 sets of reed switches, instruction book etc. Battery operated.  
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REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF APPLE COMPANY  
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disk drives, in cabinet incl.  
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Very latest I.C. and display  
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DC, 0-500V AC, 0-200mA DC, 0-  
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MAINS INPUT: 0, 240V, 265V  
OUTPUT: 2 windings 8V-10V  
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WERE \$69 135x110x110mm

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SAVE 10% off the usual prices  
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240V AC to 12V DC upto 2 Amps

regulated, low ripple, fully

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Biggest range avail; ni-cads:

UM5 (NR-N) 1.2V 150MAH...\$2.95

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4 CHANNEL MICROPHONE MIXER \$35  
Stereo/mono, 4 mike (1mV) or  
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As above but incl. VU meters,  
Master gain control, high/low  
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2x mike, 2x phono (mag or cer)  
1x aux inputs, cue with head-  
phones, mono/stereo, batt/elec.

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2x mike, 2x phono, 2x aux in-  
puts, fader, cue and master  
gain controls, 5 band graphic  
equal. and LED bar-graph VU's.

DE-LUXE DISCO MIXER \$279  
Same facilities as above but  
with adj mike talkover control  
and extra inputs in lieu of a  
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Specs too many; send SAC pise.

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The best and the quickest way  
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# The first Hobart personal computer exhibition

**M**y feet hurt! It's been a long and tiring four days of talking, looking, working, playing, and generally doing things with computers. During this time some 5000 people have strolled through the Hobart City Hall to see and fiddle with some of the latest that technology has to offer. The number of people might not seem that big, but after all, it's a first, and 5000 is a fair proportion of Hobart's population.

We've had computer shows before, but shows of the past have featured the big, beautiful, super-expensive computer systems. Great for the up and coming multi-national company, but the average member of the public can only dream of these things. This latest effort, held during the last week of September, was aimed straight at the individual computer owner. The gear on show was that which could end up in a person's home, or small business. Many people bought computers as a result of the show, and some even got free ones (a Macintosh went off as the door prize on the final night).

I thought the most impressive graphics offering at the show was a Toshiba office system that produced on the screen a butterfly, a ladybird, and an ant. Good, clear images and true colour, not exaggerated colour as in some other systems. But, in an office situation, what's it good for? Butterflies for the bosses? Or maybe colour pie charts? One wonders if this love affair with colour graphics isn't being taken too far in machines that will see most of their service as word processors, spread sheets, or data bases.

Colour was again very evident at the Sleeks Computer stand. They had a NEC machine running a computer aided design package, connected to a Roland DXY-800 eight pen colour plotter. It was a fascinating gadget to watch, as the little clip picked up a pen from the side and whizzed back to draw a bit of a picture. Then it would put that pen back, get another colour, and draw a bit more. After much whizzing and zipping, an image such as a space shuttle would emerge.

The actual plotting process always drew a big audience. During one performance I no-

ticed one of Hobart's better known boat builders intently watching this. He'd stare at the plotter, then the computer, and then lean a bit further forward. You could almost hear the little gears turning over in his head. His eyes saw "space shuttle" but the message his brain got was "boat". A good, practical use for a computer. I wonder if he got hooked?

Apple computers seemed to be everywhere at the Hobart show. Well, not everywhere, but concentrated at the two ends of the hall. At one end, old established Apple dealer, Quantum. At the other end, young upstart Apple shop, The Computer Place. And the war was on to attract business to their stands, which mostly consisted of kids. There were banks of Apple IIe s, IIc s, Macintoshes, and the occasional Lisa. There were plenty of games and plenty of chairs. I'll bet the local arcades took a beating that week with all that free competition.

Other manufacturers of small computers had well presented stands, with each attracting devotees of their particular branch of the art. So Atari owners tried out the latest Ataris, Commodore owners tried the Commodores. There didn't seem to be much cross pollination, with most existing computer owners concentrating on the machines they knew.

The stand I was associated with, Flexible Systems, was showing Tasman Turtle Tot robots and a mish-mash of small computers. We had one Apple driving three turtles at once. They danced together in unison, synchronized to music. Another Apple drove the big Elami robot who's turned into a dirty old man of late. He ran around yelling things like "Exterminate", belching loudly, and occasion-



Under inspection: the Elami robot.

ally pinching girls' bottoms. We also had a talking Commodore 64 that rattled off the time on command or worked as a talking typewriter.

Applied Technology loaned their latest 128K Series 3 Microbee, presumably to show off its icons, two word processors, two

spread sheets, three BASICs etc, etc, that all come as part of the package. We dutifully looked at them, and then pulled the system down into CP/M while we figured out how to get the Forth language into it. (No Microbee is safe when there are hackers around, no matter how ►



**Robotic harassment?** The Elami robot making its own inspection.

## Data General extends 32-bit computer line

Data General Australia has introduced a series of graphics/engineering workstations and a multi-user office automation system based on a compact, new 32-bit computer. It has also extended its software range with a native UNIX offering and communications capabilities to permit efficient interconnection of the systems in networks.

A company spokesman said its Distributed Systems (DS) 4000 and 4200 engineering workstations incorporate high-resolution monochrome or colour graphics. They are designed for use by individual engineers doing a variety of tasks, such as product design and analysis. The ECLIPSE MV/4000 SC (Small cluster) system extends the range of 32-bit ECLIPSE MV/Family systems. Running Data General's CEO (Comprehensive Electronic Office) office automation software, it can be used by up to eight people. The systems range in price from \$A49 000 to \$A82 000.

## Another PC compatible

The latest news from Warburton Franki is the announcement of Zenith's entrance into the IBM-PC compatible arena.

The new computer system is called the Z-100 PC Series and is available in both desk top and portable systems.

The Z-100 PC Series is claimed to be totally compatible with the IBM-PC in all four key areas of software/disks, software documentation, expansion/adapter cards and functional

The main software package is called "QuickPlan". With it, "business and engineering managers have at their fingertips an easy to use computer tool that allows them to plan projects and keep them on schedule and within budget" said Peter Quirk, Marketing Manager, Technical Products Division.

QuickPlan permits users to structure time, cost and resource information in a network format, allowing managers to evaluate the cost and resource impact of alternative plans and schedules.

"civilized" it is). With forth installed the big 'bee spent the rest of the show doing robotics experiments, driving speech synthesizers, and writing poetry. One Forth program that proved popular had the prototype for the ETI-677 Chatterbox project (forthcoming) trading insults with a talking Tasman Turtle.

One would expect a lot of competition among rivals at these computer shows but at the Hobart Show it seemed to be just the opposite. One instance came about when a man at the Dick Smith stand wanted to see a modem demonstrated. The modem was eventually fired up using the communications software on the big Microbee at Flexible Systems (next stand to Dick Smith's) and an RS-232 cable from D & I Agencies (across the aisle). We tossed the Dick Smith phone connection over the wall and plugged all the bits together. It all worked nicely, connected through to the Gippsland RCPM. (Yes, Dick, you copped a trunk call. I hope you sold the modem.)

TasBeeb, the BBC Micro users group, featured a large guitar amplifier on their stand, plugged into one of their computers. It played some synthesized Bach for awhile, then some boogie, and finally it cut loose with the theme for the television show *Towards 2000*. All the goodies were the work of a young student with musical talent who had mastered the Beeb's sound generator. Unfortunately the *Towards 2000* programme didn't produce the pictures one normally associates with the music. Pity. Maybe next year? These young computer buffers are doing some amazing things.

There will be a next year, I'm told. The exhibition was organized by brothers Gary and David Adderton, who said this year's effort just broke even. But it proved that they can bring all the pieces together to make a successful show, both for the exhibitors and the public.

— Story and pictures by Tom Moffat

and peripherals to meet the ever changing needs of business.

Amber or green phosphor monochromatic monitor or the Zenith RGB and composite video display is available, providing the benefits of full colour for business graphics presentations.

For full Z-100 Series specifications contact Warburton Franki at 7 Birnie Avenue, Lidcombe NSW 2141.

compatibility of keyboard.

The desktop model Z-150 PC has extensive memory and storage capacity, 128K memory expandable to 320K and IBM standard format double sided/double density 5 1/4" floppy disks storing 360K each with optional hard disk providing 10.6MB. Four open IBM compatible slots are available for Z-150 PC expansion and access a wider variety of software programs

"Through a study commissioned by Data General, we found that roughly one quarter of an engineer's work week is spent in administrative tasks," said Quirk. "QuickPlan will be particularly valuable to engineers and engineering managers who must oversee costly and scarce engineering talent and resources. The study shows project planning software is among the most requested software aids by engineers."

Another of the DS/Family's most important features is communications. Built-in industry-

standard Ethernet IEEE 802.3 support allows users to communicate with other Data General 16- and 32-bit systems and non-Data General systems and workstations.

The systems also support Data General CEO (Comprehensive Electronic Office) office automation software to facilitate office tasks such as electronic mail and filing, calendar management and document processing.

For more information contact; Data General, 26 Ellingworth Parade, Boxhill Vic 3128. (03) 831-3311.

# Why do AVTEK modems work better?

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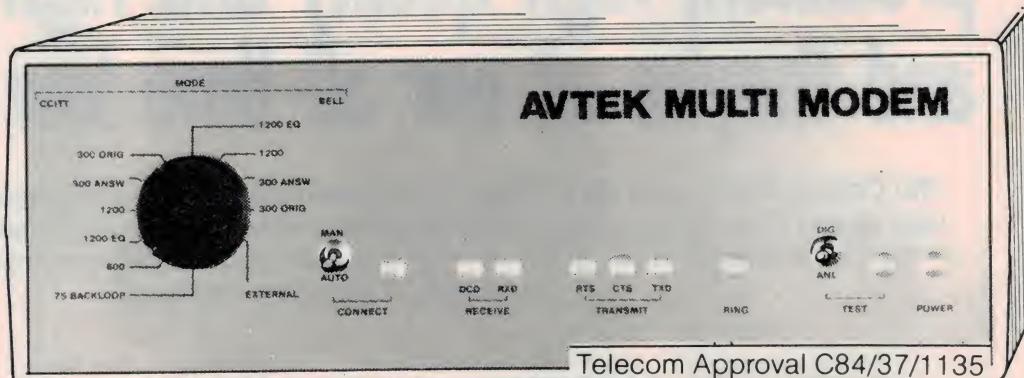
## Auto Answer Option

What is autoanswer? It is the ability of your computer/modem to switch into receiving mode when the phone rings. Some computer/software combinations do this. MultiModem offers the alternative, for computers without this facility - a hardware autoanswer. You can leave your computer waiting for information.

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5	300	Full CCITT V21 Originate
6	300	Full CCITT V21 Answer
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8	1200	Half CCITT V23 Mode 2 with equaliser
9	600	Half CCITT V23 Mode 1

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While most facilities currently use modes 5 & 6 (300 baud (CCITT V21), the standard for Videotext is to be modes 7-9 (CCITT V23). MultiModem is ready for future developments.

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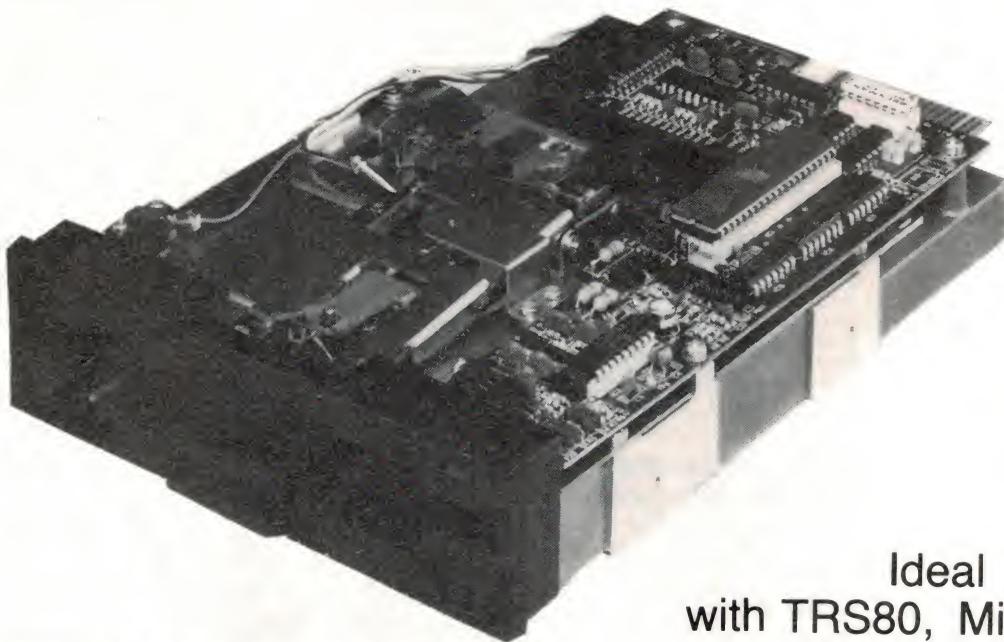


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# THE AUSSIE BYTE SINGLE BOARD COMPUTER

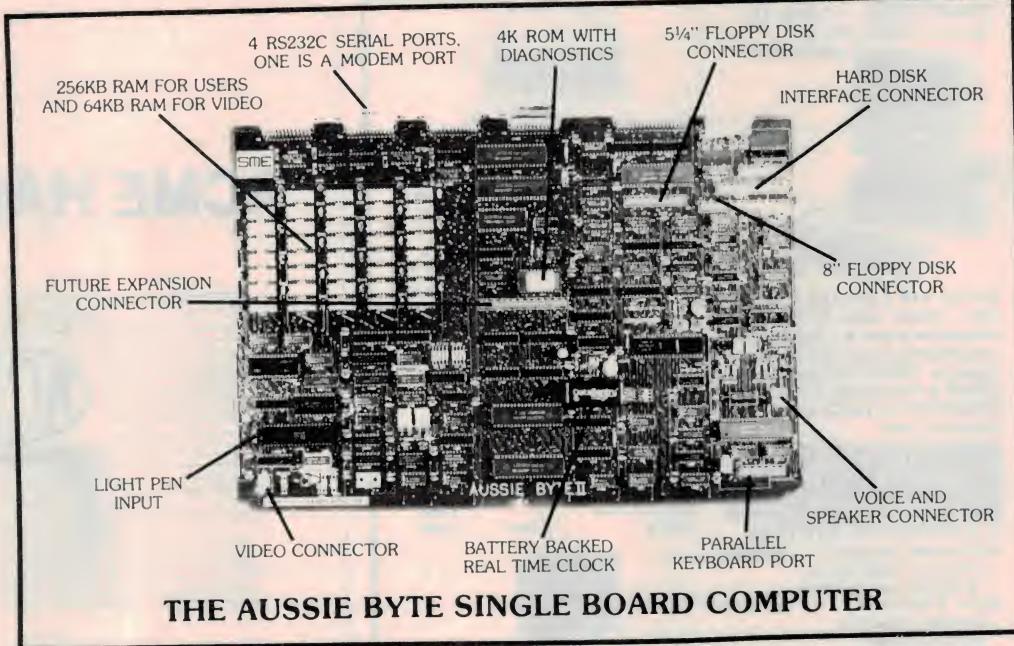
## AUSSIE BYTE FEATURES

- ★ A fully tested and proven SBC with a 4 MHz Z80A CPU running CP/M Plus (3.0) with 256K of fast dynamic RAM, 4K Monitor BIOS EPROM and DMA capability.
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- ★ Optional MP/M supporting up to four users, voice synthesis, S100 or STD bus expansion, future 16 bit support.
- ★ All this on one 30 x 42 cm board minimising cost, complexity and risks.

## SPECIFICATIONS

The Aussie Byte board is a complete computer requiring only a power supply, disk drives, keyboard, monitor and cables. No other circuitry is needed to form a complete Z80 based computer.

The Aussie Byte measures 297 by 420 mm. Along its back



**THE AUSSIE BYTE SINGLE BOARD COMPUTER**

edge, four 26 way RS232C male connectors are mounted for the serial I/O and a 37 way male connector is provided for connection to a standard Centronics printer. Standard 0.1 by 0.1 pitch upright connectors are provided to connect to 8 and 5½ inch floppy drives, to a hard disk controller, and for the bus expansion to an S100 or STD bus.

The Aussie Byte directly interfaces to both 8 and 5 inch disk drives connected via flat ribbon cables. Winchester hard disk drives are also supported with the inclusion of a WD-1002 controller and an interface cable. Both floppy and hard disk drives are supported in the CP/M implementation. For graphics applications, the graphics display controller can be placed in the 630 by 608 pixel high resolution mode. This allows quality graphics to be generated.

Expansion is catered for by the use of a "bus expansion header" connector that provides all the basic Z80 signals. This connector also provides access to the DMA controller, system clock and baud rate generators.

Other features of the Aussie Byte include a programmable tone generator, four serial channels including a modem port, parallel keyboard interface, speech synthesizer, battery backed real time clock. Power is supplied by means of an 8 way connector. Video information suitable for connection into a monochrome monitor is also available on an external connector. Power requirements are 5V at 3 amps, 12V at 1 amp and -12V at .25 amps.

When power and the required drives, monitor and keyboard are connected, the Aussie Byte will display a message to the screen indicating that it is operating. At this stage the user can press a key to enter the monitor or if left for a few seconds, the internal program will automatically load an operating system from disk. This makes the Aussie Byte particularly easy to start, requiring only switch-on and an operating system disk to be inserted in a disk drive.

The Aussie Byte Z80 CPU has a 4K EPROM monitor program which is used for system

diagnostics and for initiating disk based operating systems. The Z80 also has 256K of dynamic RAM which is accessible through bank switching for operating systems that require large address spaces or extra RAM for buffering or cache.

The Aussie Byte has been designed for the greatest possible throughput by the use of a full complement of fully interrupt driven Z80 peripheral chips. Another powerful feature is its DMA multiplexer that enables any of the I/O devices to automatically send data to or from memory via the Z80 DMA device by using the ready lines from a selected device to control the DMA channel. This enables data and port transfer to be done in a background mode without processor intervention. Video display is handled by a 6545 display chip and an 8002 attribute controller. These have their own separate 64K of RAM as well as a 2K CMOS RAM. ASCII characters are generated from an internal lookup table in the attribute controller.

The Aussie Byte is an advanced single board computer with many features, it is easy to implement in dedicated systems and extremely cost-effective.

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PS-1212	12	1.2	100x42x53	24.50
PS-1219	12	1.9	178x34x60	27.50
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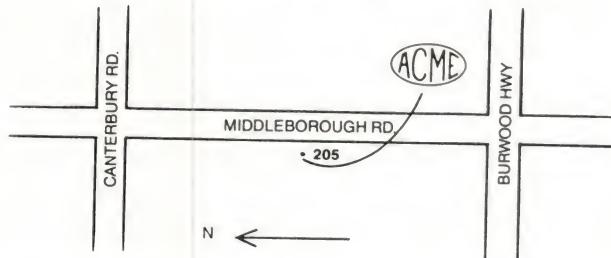
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# STR·E·TCH·ED SURFACE DISKS

Collyn Rivers

Advances in magnetic recording techniques have come thick and fast over the past two decades. 'Vertical recording' may still be a thing of the (near) future, but 3M has developed another technique that can be used right now for better performance and cost as well as take advantage of such future developments. In this exclusive report for ETI, Collyn Rivers introduces 3M's 'stretched-surface' recording technology which could see the demise of the hard disk.

ALMOST NINE DECADES have passed since the Danish scientist Valdemar Poulsen invented the first magnetic recording device — the telegraphon — which consisted of a steel wire wound spirally around a cylinder.

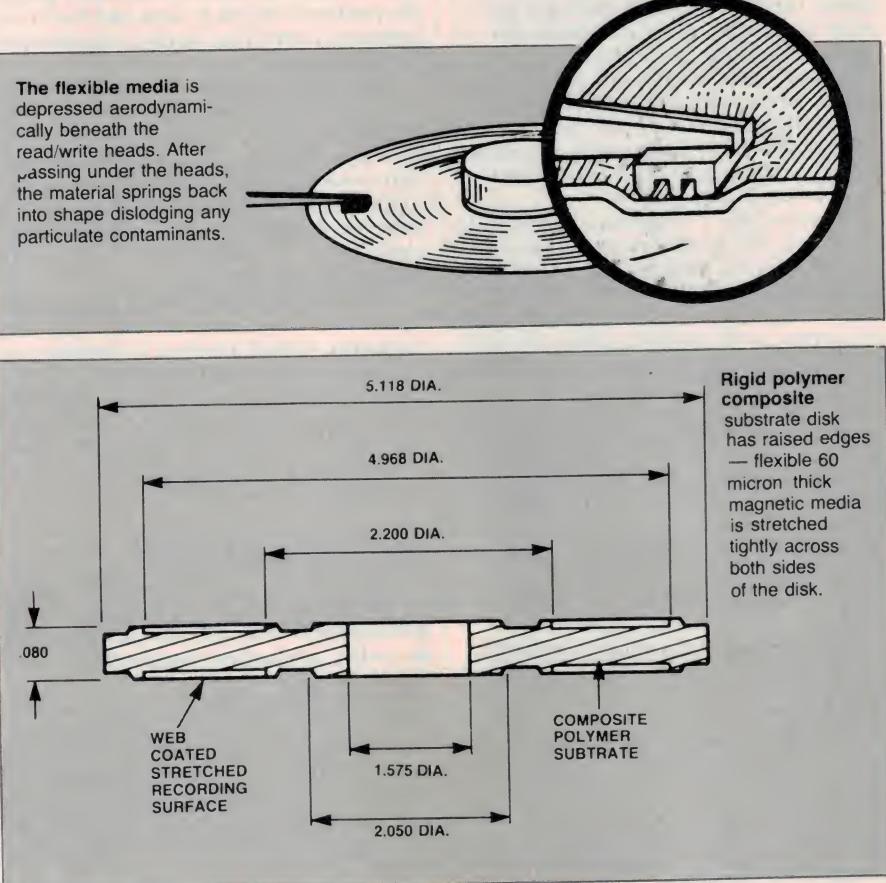
The device, granted US Patent 66 619 on 13 November 1900, was hampered by the lack of electrical amplification and consequently found little practical application.

In 1927 the German inventor, Pfleumer, experimented with a metallic powder coating, and a magnetically coated plastic recording tape was produced in Germany in 1930.

These early experiments concerned the reproduction of sound. Magnetic recording in the computer field uses similar basic principles but with ever-increasing emphasis on the highest possible recording density (and hence data storage capacity) at the lowest possible price.

The results have been dramatically effective, for over the past 10 to 12 years the cost of magnetic data storage has fallen between 40% and 50% each year and if anything the rate of fall is now becoming steeper. The previously common 300 oerstad media (allowing 6000 flux changes per inch) which served the industry for many years is now being replaced by 500-700 oerstad media (allowing 60 000 flux changes per inch). Cobalt modified gamma ferric oxide media are already being used in drives such as Amlyn's 3.2 Mbyte floppy, in Iomega's Bernoulli disk cartridges, and in sub-5-inch diskettes.

Apart from these developments, work is also progressing on 'vertical recording' (where the magnetic molecules are orientated vertically rather than horizontally as at present) a technique which will increase density by at least ten times — possibly more.



## What is new

Now, the 3M Corporation has introduced a technology which will be able to take advantage of future developments in magnetic media (including vertical recording) but offers dramatic improvements in price and

performance right now. The technique, called 'stretched-surface' recording, reliably stores five megabytes on each side of double-sided five and a quarter inch floppies — twenty times that of conventional disks — and will shortly extend that

capacity five or ten times again.

"Stretched-surface technology combines the best characteristics of floppy and hard disks with the disadvantages of neither," says David Clancy, 3M Australia's Data Recording Products Marketing Manager. "It's what user's have long sought — hard disk capacity at close to floppy disk prices."

### Technically Speaking

3M's technique uses a rigid plastic disk with raised edges — rather like a small and very shallow drum. A flexible media membrane 60 microns thick (the recording surface) is stretched across both faces of the disk, the raised edges of which ensure the flexible membrane is held above the disk's flat surfaces.

As with a conventional hard disk drive, Winchester-type magnetic read/write heads fly just above the surface of the recording media. There the similarity ends for as the disk rotates — at some 3400 rpm — air pressure built up between the head and the membrane causes the membrane to dimple slightly beneath the head leaving a gap of about 5 microns, about a quarter that of conventional hard disk drives.

Because the membrane is stretched tightly across the disk, the continually-moving dimpled area restores itself rapidly, flinging off any loose drop-out-causing debris which may have been present or created during each pass.

"It works like a trampoline" says David Clancy. "It throws off dirt so well that when we showed it at Comdex (Computer Dealer Exposition) earlier this year we ran it with the cover off and had a test rig highlighting disk errors — the rate was about the same as for sealed rigid disk drives — one error every 10 billion bits."

Even repeatedly and deliberately 'landing' the head onto the membrane causes no damage or loss of data — a happening that destroys hard disks first time round. The resilience of the membrane provides the additional benefit that the drive is far less susceptible to impact damage. "We've actually dropped the drive a half inch or so whilst it's running — without damage," says Clancy.

In other tests the drives have successfully completed over 20 000 stops and starts, reading data meanwhile, over a period of 4000 hours.

The magnetic coating itself is non-critical. The unit shown at Comdex utilised a 600 oersted floppy disk coating primarily to demonstrate that the new 3M product is compatible with recent conventional media and drive technology. The coating may just as readily be chromium dioxide, isotropic metal pigments (physical properties are not affected by orientation), barium ferrite, or other materials.

The disks themselves are injection-moulded from a heat-setting plastic resin into which is mixed a special filler. This filler ensures that the disk expands and con-

tracts with temperature at the same rate and by the same amount as do the metal components of the drive itself — thus nullifying the effect of the dimensional changes.

The stretched media membrane too remains dimensionally stable despite changes in temperature and humidity. It also has low 'anisotropy' — that is it expands and contracts by similar amounts in all directions, unlike most plastics which stretch and shrink asymmetrically.

These characteristics are essential. The read/write heads must be positioned accurately above tracks which, even in the early prototypes, are spaced a mere 20 thousandths of an inch or so apart. Even minor differences in expansion rate cause the head to be positioned above the wrong track, or if expansion is nonlinear the head may attempt to read several tracks per revolution — with digital chaos resulting.

The servo-controlled head positioning mechanisms used in some drives assist. In one form the basic mechanism is assumed to be sufficiently accurate to place the heads close to the desired track. Once that track has been found, a secondary mechanism continually seeks to position the heads so as to obtain the strongest possible signal from the track — effective with distorted disks which, as a result, rotate elliptically. With other drives, the servo mechanism causes the read/write heads to seek and lock onto positional identifying signals (superimposed on each track).

The first products to use the new stretched film technology will be non-removable disks, with removable disks following closely. These early units will have track densities of 345 tracks per inch — a spacing which may be doubled in later units which are likely to have fixed storage capacities of 48 Mbytes (37 Mbytes for removable disk versions).

Existing drives require only minor modifications to accept the 3M disks. The only obligatory change involves contouring the (manganese-zinc) heads to produce the required aerodynamically-induced dimpling effect, some minor changes to accommodate different data band dimensions, plus a few changes to the electrical levels used for recording and reading data.

### Stretching the dollar

Although the technical merits of 3M's new stretched-surface recording (SSR) drives are important, the real significance of the development is that whilst initial tooling will be costly, subsequent manufacturing costs should be low.

The aluminium substrate used in conventional hard disk technology is costly to produce initially. It then has to be heavily nickel-plated and subsequently lapped and polished to a super-fine finish. Even in quantity, these disks cannot be made for less than \$5 — necessitating an end price of at least \$25.

By contrast the new 3M disks are expected to sell initially for about \$5-\$10. The price may fall well below that once large volume production is underway. "Injection moulding the disk substrate is the key to the low prices," says Clancy. "The process enables the disks to be produced for 15 to 20 cents each, and the currently used oxide

coated membrane adds no more than another two or three cents."

The 3M company has a well developed body of knowledge and experience in various aspects of the new disk technology. The organisation was an early pioneer in the development of magnetic media, and also in the technique of moulding stable plastic disk substrates. They are used by the hundreds of thousands as video disks. The company additionally has its own sources of magnetic oxides.

Hardware manufacturers are currently evaluating the product, and commercial deliveries are expected to start in mid 1985. Already, 3M is publicly demonstrating five and ten megabyte SSR drives using 600 oersted magnetic media.

### Rising to the future

Revolutionary though the first 3M SSR products unquestionably are, the next year or two will prove even more exciting in the development of this new range. 3M amongst other companies is actively researching a technique called 'vertical recording' in which the particles forming a disk's magnetic media coating are oriented vertically rather than horizontally. This enables particle density — and hence recording and reading density — to be increased by about one hundred times.

If this technology can be combined with 3M's SSR techniques the way is open for producing plus 100 megabyte drives (probably with removable disks) at much the same price we pay today for a floppy disk drive. And if 3M do succeed in producing such drives, they could," forecasts the authoritative (US) Magnetic Media Information Services, "walk away with the entire hard disk media business in its pocket."

Even in the improbable event that 3M's SSR disk technology remains limited to existing magnetic media, this new development seems almost certain to revolutionise the disk memory business. When they were originally developed (by IBM in 1970) floppy disks were intended as program loaders only — it was not conceived that they would be used for data storage. Their subsequent change of role was brought about by the advent of the home computer — hard disk drives were far too costly, and tape drives too cumbersome and slow. Floppies were seen in a new light and almost instantly found a mass market as on-line storage devices for small computers.

Now, hard disk prices are falling rapidly and in most business systems the floppy disk drive is used primarily as a back-up device. But for reasonable convenience a back-up drive needs to have a capacity of one third to one fifth that of the main drive (with one tenth as an absolute minimum), and it is this reason as much as any, that is causing manufacturers to expand the capacity of their floppy drive products.

In this field, the future for stretched-surface recording drives seems assured, and the devices may well prove a major threat to current hard disk technology if production units have the performance exhibited by pre-production prototypes.

Further details may be obtained from: David Clancy, 3M Australia Pty Ltd, 950 Pacific Highway, NSW 2073. (02)498-9333. ●





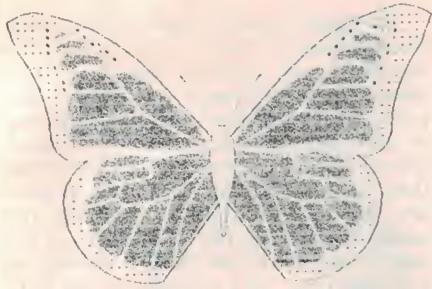
### HP-2225A Thinkjet Printer —

### Report Card

<b>Manufacturer:</b>	Hewlett Packard Inc
<b>Distributor:</b>	Hewlett Packard Australia
<b>Interfaces:</b>	NPIL (IEEE 488) HPIB Centronics
<b>Type:</b>	Inkjet (dot matrix)
<b>Fonts:</b>	Bold (double strike) Expanded Compressed Italic
<b>Speed:</b>	Graphics (bit image)
<b>Footprint (desktop occupied):</b>	150 characters per second
<b>Paper feed:</b>	290 mm x 205 mm Tractor and friction feed
<b>Best feature:</b>	Combination of speed and quietness.
<b>Worst feature:</b>	Restriction on the types of paper it can handle.
<b>Price:</b>	\$795
<b>Review unit supplied by:</b>	Hewlett Packard Australia 17-23 Talavera Road, North Ryde NSW 2113
<b>Print matrix:</b>	11 by 12



**Above.** Printhead capsule. This disposable capsule contains the ink bladder and jets that 'fire' the ink globules at the paper. No hammers, no noise and good for 500 pages! **Top.** Hi-tech, low profile. The Thinkjet is truly tiny — about the size of a small portable typewriter and hundreds of times quieter than a dot matrix or daisywheel printer.



**Great graphics!** A sample from the Thinkjet printer.

# PRINTING WHILE THE BABY SLEEPS

With Hewlett-Packard's Thinkjet.

These dot matrix utility printers use HP's disposable ink jet printhead

## Jon Fairall

INKJET TECHNOLOGY has been around for quite a while in commercial and industrial applications. But the 2225A is the first printer using this technology to be aimed at the home user. It is priced at around about \$795, a price which slots it firmly into competition with quality dot matrix printers and with the cheaper daisy wheels.

Hewlett Packard makes three versions of the inkjet, for interfacing to different host computers. There is the HPIB interface for use with the company's 150 and other computers. This is actually HP's implementation of the IEE 4888 standard. The HPIL interface is also available on the Thinkjet. This is a looped data stream especially designed for handheld calculators and small computers. HP have also provided a centronics interface for parallel working with other manufacturer's equipment.

## How it works

The operation is deceptively simple: marks are made on paper by squirting ink at it. In Hewlett Packard's application, this is achieved by a small disposable cartridge that contains an ink bladder, a column of microscopic pipes and heater elements. The bladder is made of rubber and exerts a pressure on the ink inside it. As the ink is used-up the bladder collapses, maintaining a constant pressure on the ink. This pressure,

and capillary action, suck the ink into the small pipes. When an instruction comes from the host computer to fire the ink, a heater element wrapped around the pipe is switched on. Virtually instantaneously, the ink in the pipe vapourises, forming a bubble that expands rapidly. The expanding bubble shoots ink out the open end onto the paper. As the bubble contracts fresh ink is sucked into the pipe and the cycle can be recommenced as desired.

All of this is contained on a disposable cartridge. In spite of the tiny electrical connections that need to be made (between the heater elements) it is surprisingly easy to replace. It just drops into a slot in the cartridge and is then secured by a large latch. Beyond keeping it clean there is really nothing to check or maintain on the cartridge. If it runs out you buy another. The price is about \$13, with a discount for buying in bulk. According to HP, each cartridge will print about 500 pages of text. Obviously this varies with the application. Graphics take more, a typical letter or memo which does not use the whole page will take less.

Intuitively, it is surprising that the system works with any degree of certainty, but experience shows that not only does it work, it works extremely well. Each dot sprays a small area considerably less than half a millimetre in diameter. Viewed with a magnifying glass each dot is surprisingly regular and clearly defined. One would

expect to see splatters of ink running in all directions, but this does not happen. We can only speculate at the amount of research that must have gone into getting the right combination of exhaust velocity, spray angle and cartridge-to-paper distance to achieve this.

Of course, the paper onto which you are printing does make some difference to the equation. As a general rule the more absorbent it is the better. HP make a special paper which they recommend, but it's not necessary to go to those lengths to get satisfactory results. In our tests we discovered that the Thinkjet works like a charm with standard 240 mm fan folded paper, but the print quality noticeably deteriorated when we tried to use high quality bond paper. Viewed through a magnifying lens it was apparent that the shape or consistency of the dots had not changed. What appeared to happen was that there was a slight vertical smearing effect, presumably caused by the rapid movement of the head during line feed. There is an absorbent pad on the front of the carriage which touches the paper, and this seems to be the culprit.

## Print quality

Given the ability to make small regular dots in this way, the inkjet has one terrific advantage over other forms of impact matrix printer: it is possible to pack a lot more dots into a given area. In an impact printer

## REVIEW

you have to pack the firing mechanism for all the pins into the head. In an inkjet, you only need space for a heater element. Since the amount of ink that needs to be heated is extremely small the element can be made tiny as well. Add to this the fact that in the impact printer the size of the dot is only slightly bigger than the needle used to hit the ink ribbon. But with an inkjet it is possible to make the dot considerably bigger simply by the design of the nozzle. This leads to a considerable amount of overlap between the dots, with the result that the printing doesn't have the discontinuous "dotty" look of a conventional matrix printer.

It would be a mistake however, to think that the Thinkjet creates letter quality printing, in the sense of a daisywheel printer or a typewriter. Even a cursory glance will show the difference. But that is not to say that the Thinkjet is not acceptable in this role. Its print is very pleasing on the eye, and certainly doesn't look cheap and nasty.

### Advantages

It also has all the traditional advantages of a dot matrix printer over a font printer like a daisywheel or a golfball. The typesize, characters per line and lines per centimetre can all be varied in the usual fashion under

software control. There is a choice of typeface as well: bold, condensed and expanded. Once again, it is not necessary to go to the trouble of changing daisywheels or golfballs, it's all available through escape codes.

There is also, as one would expect, a graphics mode with default dot density of 96 dots to the inch in both the vertical and horizontal direction. This can be increased to 182 dots in the horizontal direction, but it's not possible to increase the vertical resolution. Graphics data is sent to the printer one byte at a time in groups, where each group contains the graphics data for one horizontal row of dots.

Another aspect of the Thinkjet that particularly pleased me was the physical design of the unit. For a start, it's unbelievably small, with a 'footprint' only 290mm by 205mm. That would probably make it the smallest printer capable of taking A4 or 240mm fan folded paper.

It is also exceptionally fast. HP claim a speed of 150 characters per second. It is bidirectional as well i.e.: it prints one line left-to-right and the next one right-to-left, thus eliminating the time necessary for a carriage return. As a result the effective throughput of the Thinkjet is very close to what one would expect from these figures, unlike the conventional printer that only prints in one direction. Typically one finds that the time taken to move the print head from the end of one line to the beginning of the next can amount to thirty percent of the time taken to print a document, making speed claims very deceptive.

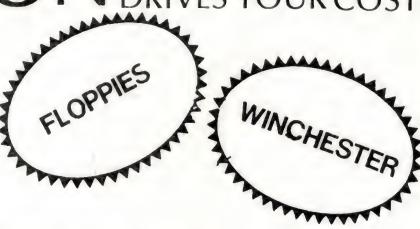
The paper loading system is also exceptionally simple. There is none of the messing about you normally expect. To load paper, you simply push it into the slot. Surprise, surprise, it actually goes in quite easily, and comes up where it should. I wasn't able to sort out what the HP designers have done to the paper feed to make it so pleasant to use — it looks just like my xx-80, but believe me, it doesn't act that way. It may have something to do with the fact that there isn't a platen on the 2225, just a couple of rollers. The paper is held by the pressure of the pinch bar on top of the paper squeezing down on these rollers. This arrangement is possible of course, because there is no impact mechanism.

The fact that there is no impact mechanism is also responsible for the 2225A's best single quality. It is quiet! In fact it's rather disconcerting, when you first use it, to find that in an office like ours, with a fair amount of noise around, (air conditioning, assorted yells and shrieks as yet another deadlines goes past, that sort of thing) it's impossible to tell whether the unit is going until the paper starts issuing forth.

### Summary

In summary then, the HP2225A is a superb little printer, well worth considering if you want to spend \$800 or so on a new one. It's fast, quiet and easy to use and offers superb print quality. Its only limitation is that it can't be used on high quality paper.

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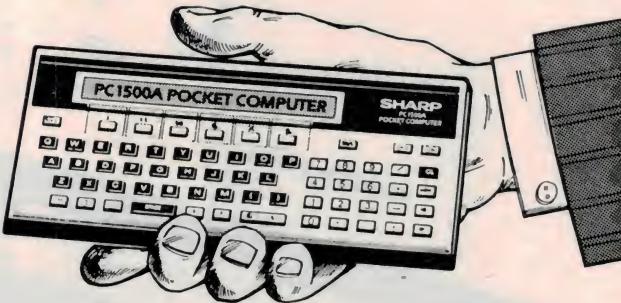
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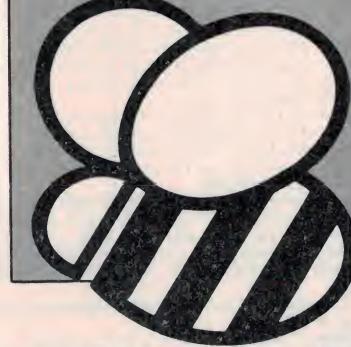
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## LOW RESOLUTION JOYSTICK DRAWER

M. McLaren, Labrador Qld.

This program allows you to use the joystick or keys to draw in LORES.

If you need to use the keys use 'W' for up, 'Z' for down, 'A' for left and 'S' for right. You can rubout using the fire button on the joystick or the 'P' key.

```

00100 REM Joystick or Keyboard Drawing
00110 REM By J. McLaren of Gold Coast MicroBee Users Group
00120 CLS:POKE 257,1
00130 CURS 28:PRINT"Joy-Draw"
00140 PRINT"This program enables you to draw in Low Resolution with the\"joystick or the following keys 'W' up, 'Z' down, 'A' left and\"'S' right."
00150 PRINT\You can also rub out a single space by pressing the 'FIRE'\"button or the 'P' key. You can also hold the 'FIRE' button\"down and move around cont inually rubbing out."
00160 PRINT\You start in the centre of the screen."
00170 LORES
00180 X=61:Y=22
00190 PRINT:INPUT"Do you want to use the Joystick or Keyboard 'J' OR 'K'?";J1$:C
LS:IF J1$=="K"THEN 320
00200 CLS
00210 REM
00220 OUT 1,255
00230 A=IN(0)
00240 A=143-(A AND 143)
00250 B=-(A AND 1):IF B THEN GOSUB 400
00260 B=-(A AND 2):IF B THEN GOSUB 410
00270 B=-(A AND 4):IF B THEN GOSUB 420
00280 B=-(A AND 8):IF B THEN GOSUB 430
00290 B=-(A AND 128):IF B THEN GOSUB 390
00300 B=-(A AND 512):IF B THEN GOSUB 440
00310 GOTO 230
00320 K1$=KEY$:IF K1$="" THEN 320
00330 IF K1$=="W" THEN GOSUB 400
00340 IF K1$=="Z" THEN GOSUB 410
00350 IF K1$=="A" THEN GOSUB 420
00360 IF K1$=="S" THEN GOSUB 430
00370 IF K1$=="P" THEN GOSUB 390
00380 GOTO 320
00390 GOTO 440
00400 Y=Y+1:SET X,Y:RETURN
00410 Y=Y-1:SET X,Y:RETURN
00420 X=X-1:SET X,Y:RETURN
00430 X=X+1:SET X,Y:RETURN
00440 RESET X,Y:RETURN
00450 END

```

## BEETLE BASHER

Peter Easdown, Kew NSW

Beetle Basher is similar to games in which you must steer a car back and forth along a road.

The difference here is that you steer a beetle, not a car.

The story is that the beetle has found a pile of tyres over his home. You must direct him to his home at the bottom. Sounds easy? It's not. There happens to be a breeze blowing, and the pile of tyres has a bad habit of swaying, thus making life for the beetle very hard. The tyres are a support for a sticky, parasitic mould. Guess what would happen if the beetle got stuck on that stuff.

What else could happen? Well, in piles of tyres, spiders have a habit of nesting, so once you get the beetle down a bit you start coming across spiders in your way. Quick, dodge, or you know what will happen!

```

00010 W=0:FORK=64528T064623:READA:POKE,A:NEXTK
00020 RESTORE 220:FORK=64000T064015:READA:POKE,A:NEXTK
00030 C=0:M=0:GOSUB480:GOSUB370:NORMAL:CURSX,Y-1:PRINT"   ";PCG
00040 X=30:Y=8:PCG
00050 DE=28:G=1:F=34:GOTO70
00070 CURSX,Y:PRINT"ARC":CURSX,Y+1:PRINT"DEF":A1$=EY$
00080 A=X:Y=Y:IF A$="," THEN LETC=1
00090 IF A$="." THEN LETC=1
00100 CURS1,1:PRINTM:M=M+1
00105 IFM=.200 THEN GOSUB310
00110 X=Y+C
00120 Y=Y-1:IF PEEK(61440+(0*64)+X-1)=160 THEN 350
00121 IF PEEK(61440+(0*64)+X)=160 THEN 350
00122 IF PEEK(61440+(0*64)+X+1)=160 THEN 350
00123 O=160:IF PEEK(61440+(0*64)+X-1)=160 THEN 350
00124 IF PEEK(61440+(0*64)+X)=160 THEN 350
00125 IF PEEK(61440+(0*64)+X+1)=160 THEN 350
00140 NORMAL:CURSA,B:PRINT"   ":"CURSA,B+1:PRINT"   ";PCG
00150 GOSUB300:GOTO70
00160 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,0,9,5,2,3,10,6,2,10,9
00170 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,120,206,169,19,17,16,16,16,16,144,17
00180 DATA 0,0,0,0,0,64,128,128,0,0,160,192,128,160,160,64
00190 DATA 6,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
00200 DATA 214,186,130,198,238,124,130,68,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
00210 DATA 128,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
00220 DATA 85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170,85,170
00230 Z=INT(RND*2)+1:RETURN
00240 IF Z=1 THEN LETC=-1:F=F-1
00250 IF Z=2 THEN LETC=E+1:F=F+1
00260 IF E<15 THEN LETC=15:F=22
00270 IF F>50 THEN LETC=50:E=44
00280 N=INT(RND*3):IF N=0 THEN 230
00290 RETURN
00300 CURS1,16:PRINT SPC(E-3):CURSF3+,16:PRINT SPC(63-(F+3)):PRINT:GOTO240
00310 N=INT(RND*15)+1:IF Q<>2 THEN RETURN
00320 Q=INT(RND*8)+1:CURS-30,16:PRINTCHR$(32):RETURN
00350 GOSUB570:CLS:NORMAL:PRINT"You let the beetle get eaten by the sticky mould, but you managed to get him about ";M;" cm towards his home."
00360 IFM>W THEN LETW=M:INPUT"YOU GOT THE HIGH SCORE, WHAT'S YOUR NAME ";N1$:GOTO30
ELSE FORK=1T02000:NEXTK:GOTO30
00370 RETURN:PLAY6,2;11,3;6,2;11,5;0,2;6,2;11,3;6,2;11,5;0,2
00380 PLAY 6,1;0,1;6,1;0,1;6,1;0,1
00390 PLAY 15,1;0,1;15,1;0,1;15,1;0,1
00400 PLAY 11,1;0,1;11,1;0,1;11,1;0,1
00410 PLAY 6,1;0,1;6,1;0,1;6,1;0,1
00420 PLAY 3,5;0,2
00430 PLAY 6,1;0,1;6,1;0,1;6,1;0,1
00440 PLAY 15,1;0,1;15,1;0,1;15,1;0,1
00450 PLAY 11,1;0,1;11,1;0,1;11,1;0,1
00460 PLAY 3,1;0,1;3,1;0,1;3,1;0,1
00470 PLAY 11,5;RETURN
00480 CLS:NORMAL:CURS25,2:PRINT"BEETLE BASHER"
00490 NORMAL:CURS1,4:PRINT"Get the beetle home down the pile of tyres and dodge the walls. Use the '<' and '>' keys to move the beetle sideways."
00495 IF W<>THECURS1,6:PRINT"HI SCORE BY ";N1$;" = ";W
00500 CURS1,8:INPUT"Hit 'RETURN' to start the game... ";A1$:PCG
00505 CLS
00510 E=28:G=1:F=34:FORK=1T015:CURS1,Z:PRINT[A28 32]:CURS34,Z:PRINT[A31 32]:NEXTK:H=E:I=F
00515 CURS1,1:PRINT[A128 32]:X=30:Y=1
00520 CURS21,1:PRINT[A21 160]:CURS21,2:PRINT[A21 160]
00530 CURS21,3:PRINT[A3 160]:CURS39,3:PRINT[A3 160]
00540 CURSX,Y:PRINT"ABC":CURSX,Y+1:PRINT"DEF":Z=Y:Y=Y+
00550 IF Y=B THEN RETURN
00560 FORK=1T0200:NEXTK:PLAYZ,1:CURSX,Z:NORMAL:PRINT"   ";PCG:GOTO540
00570 FORK=1T010:CURSX,Y:PRINT"XXX":CURSX,Y+1:PRINT"XXX":FORZ=1T030:NEXTZ:PLAYZ,1
00580 CURSX,Y:PRINT"ABC":CURSX,Y+1:PRINT"DEF":FORZ=1T030:NEXTZ:PLAY 11-F,1:NEXTK:RETURN

```



## MICROBEE NUMBER FORMATTING

Peter Lukes, Toowoomba Qld.

The MicroWorld BASIC number formatting function is useful for aligning columns of figures, but lacks the facility for presenting the figures in the format used in financial statements. This short routine can overcome this disadvantage.

The number is printed in a certain position in the screen in the (F16.2 n1) format. A loop is used to transfer the digits from the screen memory to a

string, inserting the thousands separators at the same time. The string is then processed into two forms. The first form fills the leading blanks with asterisks and places a dollar sign immediately before the first digit, and the sign of the number is printed after the last decimal place (this could be replaced by DR or CR). The second form encloses a negative number in brackets. Whole numbers could be pro-

duced by not including the decimal point and places in the string.

The routine is fairly slow but it can be speeded up, and memory saved, by compressing it. The formatted number can be printed anywhere on the screen where it will not interfere with the existing display or produce a scroll, and erased by printing spaces over it.

```

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : 123456789012.34      00100 Cls:Print "MicroBee Number Formatting LRS 840212"
123456789012.34
*$123,456,789,012.34+
123,456,789,012.34

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : -123456789012.34      Position
-123456789012.34
*$123,456,789,012.34-
(123,456,789,012.34)

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : 0
0.00
*****$0.00
0.00

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : 9e11
900000000000.00
*$900,000,000,000.00+
900,000,000,000.00

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : 9e12
*****
Field overflow

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : .01
0.01
*****$0.01+
0.01

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : 9999999999.99
9999999999.99
*$999,999,999,999.99+
999,999,999,999.99

Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : -9999999999.99
-9999999999.99
*$999,999,999,999.99-
(999,999,999,999.99)

00110 sd 14:rem Set significant digits
00120 l0$="*****$":rem Leading filler
00130 P=132:S=61440+P:rem P=Print Position,S=screen
00140 curs 64:Print spc(255) spc(255)/:curs 64:rem Clear
screen
00150 input "Enter number, up to 14 significant digits : "
          NL
00160 curs P:Print F16.2 N11:rem Print formatted number
00170 R1$="":for R=1 to 16:K=Peek(S+R):if KK46 then 200
00180 R1$=R1$+chr$(K)
00190 if Rlt(R/3)=Rlt(R)/3 and RK10 then let R1$=R1$+"."
00200 nextR:rem Assemble digits and separators into
string
00210 if R1$="" then input "Field overflow" R1$:goto 140
00220 R2$=L0$-R1$:L=len(R1):if N1=0 then let R2$=R2$+""
00230 if N1<0 then let R2$=R2$+"-":R1$=(-R1$+":") N1=L+1
          rem Neg
00240 if N1>0 then let R2$=R2$+":":rem Pos
00250 Print R2$(len(R2)-L)
00260 Print spc(28-L) R1$:input R1$:goto 140

```

Microbee users in Townsville will be interested to know that their local users' group is now meeting on the ground floor of St. Margaret Mary's Secondary School, Crowle Street, Hermit Bay on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm. The president is Peter Foster (077)72-2951 and the Secretary is Mannie van Rijswijk (077)73-4236.

# MINI-MART

For Sale/Wanted/  
Swap/Join

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FOR SALE: JVC MCA VSE, quality amp, 100 W, going order, \$100 or offer. Ian McLean (02)818-1818.

WANTED: TECHNICAL INFORMATION for rebuilding Philips F8Z18A concerto stereogram. Rout, 3/137 Champion St, Christchurch NZ. Ph. 79-7882.

FOR SALE: SPEAKERS 3 way 15 inch base in separate cabinets. 100 W. \$600 pair. Ph (062) 86-2475.

FOR SALE: SONY WALKMAN DD, Including; Sony MDR-W5 Dynamic Stereo Headphones, Case, Strap, and Manual. Excellent sound reproduction quality, good condition. \$80. B. R. Munro, 14 Elm Road, Campbelltown, SA 5074. (08)337-4514.

FOR SALE: SHARP PC15600 plus printer, 8k module, all manuals and Sharp technical manual. Software. Bargain at \$600. Kevin (02)642-4093.

FOR SALE: FLOPPY DISKS: Professional-quality SSDD 5 1/4" diskettes. \$24/box of 10, postage \$2/box. Phone Peter (02) 349-6319, P.O. Box 448, Maroubra, NSW 2035.

FOR SALE: TANDY MC-10 colour computer \$70. Computer classics 300 CT modem \$225. Commodore 64 and 1541 drive \$725 ono. Ben Begg (08)31-0310.

FOR SALE: SORCERER 58k VDU stringy floppy, Devpac software. \$350. A. H. Herp, 11 Vernon Ave., Gorokan NSW 2263. (043)92-1611.

FOR SALE: ATARI 800, 48k RAM 810 disk drive, printer and all accessories with \$600 worth of software and books. \$1700 ono. (03)763-0787.

FOR SALE: VZ 200 Extra listable commands. Auto, Trace, Delete, On goto, Onerror, String\$, Defdbi, etc. Cassette and information. \$10-\$15 G. Lehmann, 6 Midway Rd, Elizabeth East SA 5112.

WANTED: Exidy FDS Disk Drive for Sorcerer Computer or S100 Expansion Unit. Ph. (02)452-4014.

FOR SALE: MICROBEE 32+ with 4MHz mod., EDASM, Kaga Denshi green monitor, joystick, chess, \$550. K. Lau. (02)498-7270.

FOR SALE: EPROMS AND RAMS: 2708 and 2716 EPROMs \$5 and \$8, clean ready to program. 16K dynamic RAM (4116) assorted makes \$2 a piece. (047)59-1721 a.h.

FOR SALE: APPLE TWO EUROPLUS, 64 K RAM, Disk Drive, green screen monitor, 80 column card, serial card, printer, 90 diskettes, excellent condition, \$2500. B. R. Munro, 14 Elm Road, Campbelltown, SA 5074. (08)337-4514.

RESEARCH MACHINES 380Z computer, 48K RAM, three RS232 ports, four 8in. DS/SD BASF floppy drives, Okidata 110 printer, two cassette drives with controller, Votrax speech synthesiser, Dataphone 300 baud direct modem, extensive CP/M software, cost \$10K, sell \$4K. Frank, (051)55-9232.

## COMPUTERS

WANTED: CIRCUIT or service manuals for Imark Pocket Scanner model DS103. Ph R. A. Masterton (02)605-2487.

FOR SALE: MICROBEE Hyperspace (Keyboard or joystick) and Bonus Grand Prix. Only \$5 for tape and listing. T. B. Knowler, 5 Keane Place, Fraser ACT 2615.

WANTED: Apple 2+ required by student without software. Must be going. P.O. Box 5915 Rockhampton MC, Queensland 4700.

FOR SALE: URGENT: MCE enhancement board for Super 80 computer. Graphics of 560 x 225 and 256 graphics characters. \$99.50 with documentation. Jeremy Ellis (03)459-5698.

WANTED: CONTACT with other Microbee users or club that caters for same in North Brisbane area. Contact Michael French, 76 Barrett St, Bracken Ridge. (07)269-8405.

FOR SALE: SWPT S550 computer system, two RS232 ports, centronix port, 40k RAM spare CPU, FDC and cable. Flex 2 DOS. \$425. R. Steedman RMB 9010 Lucknow Vic 3875. Ph (051)56-8291.

FOR SALE: ATARI 2600, 2 joysticks, paddles 26 cartridges case and drawer. Good condition \$500 ono. (02)520-7237.

WANTED: TRS80 EXPANSION Interface with two disk drives plus business software. Your price. Les Kinch, Longford, Bendemeer NSW 2352.

FOR SALE: Model railway, 1.8 by 2.5 metres, 25 cm deep. Can be stored vertical, or has a tabletop cover, 17 electrically driven points and 13 signals, with station indicators. Nine complete trains, modern to 25 yrs old, cat power over 1/2 layout, all stations and buildings lit, ETI electronic controller. 24 manhours of professional after-sales service, \$1200 the lot. Jonathan (02)692-2962 (10-2), (02)419-2962 (a.h.).

WANTED: OSCILLOSCOPE 125mm, 10MHz 1μs timebase minimum requirement. Pay up to \$250 depending on features and condition. M. White, 19 Lawley Cres, South Hobart, Tas 7000. Ph (002) 235-5340.

FOR SALE: Moray Fuel Sensor \$25, Moray Speed Sensor \$15, Realistic 6 spkr. P. A. Column \$90/pr., Realistic Minimus 11 Bookshelf Spkr. \$90/pr. All Brand New. Ron Coleman. Ph. (062)88-5369.

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## SHOP AROUND

### NOTES & ERRATA

**ETI-278 Directional door minder, Nov. '84.** The overlay and wiring diagram on page 70 contains an error in the caption at the top left corner. The sentence "make sure the green (neutral) mains lead is the longest." should read as follows: "make sure the green/yellow striped earth wire is the longest."

### ETI-683 Mindmaster

The components for this project are readily available from most electronics retailers. If you're after a kit, try *Altronics* in Perth, *Jaycar* in Sydney, *All Electronic Components* and *Rod Irving* in Melbourne and perhaps your local *Dick Smith* store. Ready-made pc boards and, in some cases, Scotchcal panels, may be obtained from the suppliers listed on page 144 of the October issue.

### ETI-1422 Column speakers

The 6" speakers used in our prototypes were obtained from *Jaycar* in Sydney, type H16CP60-02C. They're only a few bucks and just right for the job. If you use twin-cones in the large column, as suggested, they're the ones used in the '463 Masterplay speakers (Oct. issue): Pioneer C16EC70-01FW, also from *Jaycar*. Note that *Altronics* may be able to supply them, also.

### ETI-741 Radio mic.

You'll have to shop around for parts for this project. However, *Geoff Wood Electronics* in Rozelle, Sydney has indicated he'll be getting parts in for this project. The Neosid K6 coil assembly is distributed by *Neosid, 23 Percival St, Lilyfield, Sydney NSW*. The Motorola ICs are obtainable from a number of suppliers — but they may have to be ordered in. The Intersil reference zener (IC4 — ICL8069) is imported and distributed by R&D Electronics and may be obtained through *All Electronic Components* in Melbourne and *Geoff Wood* in Sydney. We might have more information for you next month.

### Artwork

Making your own pc boards? Full-size positive or negative film is available for the prices listed below. Send requests, with payment, to: *ETI-xxx Artwork, ETI magazine, PO Box 227, Waterloo NSW 2017*. Make sure you specify positives or negatives, according to the process you use. Make cheques or money orders payable to 'ETI Artwork Sales'. Here are the prices for this month's projects.

**ETI-683:** pcbs — \$2.50; panels — \$4.40

**ETI-741:** pcb (double-sided) — \$2.20

**ETI-755:** pcbs — \$5.40; panels — \$5.95

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## DREGS

YOUR DREGS COLUMN this month comes to you from poolside Tamworth, capital of country New South Wales. Now what, you may ask, is going on in Tamworth to lure your correspondent away from his daily carbon monoxide fix? Well, not a hell of a lot actually, not a hell of a lot. Sloth is the order of the day.

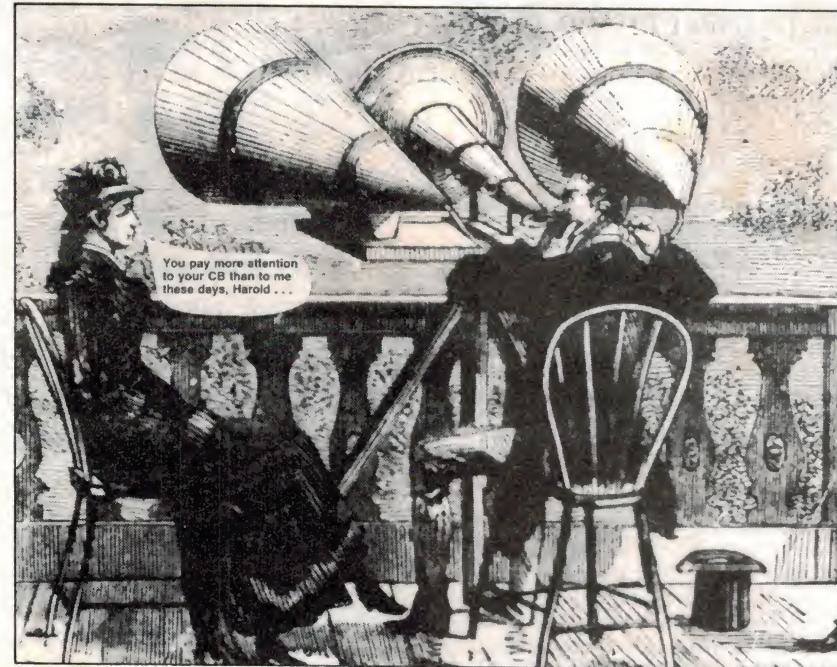
But all is not completely quiet up in the bush. Not by a long shot. Over in Lismore there is a company called Hi Tech Control Systems that is setting the world on fire with a device that is the answer to many a cocky's prayers. It's called an Electronic Scarecrow, and Hi Tech insists this is the final solution to the problem of crop damage due to pest infestation.

According to one of the innumerable press releases that came over the Dregs desk this week, the Electronic Scarecrow will completely protect a crop from all types of predators. Field trials in the Lismore area stopped an influx of flying foxes from attacking the bananas, but it can be used against virtually any form of predator, including something as big as a kangaroo. The system needs to be custom-tuned for each individual location, so it will protect a clearly defined area, like an individual field or orchard.

Well, a story like this needs following up. How, when, where, why, how much; all the usual questions we like answered so we can be bigger and brighter than the opposition. The boss cocky in the scarecrow business is a gent by the name of Ron Fry. According to Ron, the Electronic Scarecrow works on sound pressure waves. It can throw a beam half an inch wide, six foot high and twelve kilometres long. When a fruit bat (or whatever) runs into this beam, the pressure waves interact with the bat's skeletal structure and cause an experience much like being hit on the funny bone. The bat loses the ability to fly and drops like a brick. As soon as it leaves the beam it recovers and flies off into the distance; a surprised and somewhat wiser little bat.

### A leg-pulling device?

Now, Dregs is not cynical. Here at ETI we pride ourselves on our gee-whiz attitude to high tech. But this is a little strange. A sound wave half an inch wide and twelve kilometres long? Who's pulling whose leg



around here? Not the Department of Agriculture anyway. They gave \$200,000 to develop the Electronic Scarecrow. According to Hi Tech they're investigating using them in the third world, and apparently the Yanks are hot to trot as well. There has been "aggressive interest" from certain quarters in the US, according to Mr Fry.

In fact, there are so many people who want to know how the thing works that Hi Tech has decided not to patent the idea, but to use rather more extreme methods to protect its invention. The Electronic Scarecrow comes complete with a self-destructing circuit board — if you open the box that's it. Fans of Mission Impossible will get the idea.

Well, how does it work? Mr Fry is not telling. It's not an ultrasonic device, he says. It works on sound pressure waves. He won't say what frequency it works at, or what the transducers do. He won't say how the self-destruct mechanism works. In fact, Mr Fry is not the most forthcoming of men. Still, you can see his point. If I had a device that could apparently violate as many physical laws as Ron's can, I wouldn't tell you how it worked either.

But we can speculate. It's not ultrasonic and it's not within the audio region, so that leaves infrasonic waves. (Mr Fry assured me that the device has no effect on humans, so it must be outside the range of human hearing.) Infrasonics have a small number of applications, none of them particularly pleasant. In countries with even worse politicians than ours, infrasonics are used as a method of riot control. Apparently a sound-wave propagating at around 5 Hz affects the middle ear, causing giddiness and nausea. Could the Electronic Scarecrow work along these lines?

Well, the biggest objection I can see straight away is a power one. To project an infrasonic wave 12 km we would need access to the entire generating capacity of the NSW Electricity Commission. Of course, Ron wouldn't be the first businessman to exaggerate the capabilities of his

product, but even if he was out by a factor of 10, you still need to project changes 1.2 km down the track, and you still need to build a small power station every time you want to set up a scarecrow. Easier to simply burn the coal and poison the little beggars with acid rain, surely?

How could one get around the power requirement? One method that might go part of the way towards a solution, and also account for the directionality of the system, might be some sort of phased interferometric system. If one had a number of transducers all broadcasting with some specified phase relationship, there would be regions where, as the waves propagated outwards, they would sum to a maximum, and other regions where they would subtract to zero. Presumably one would end up with a distribution pattern in which there was a single central beam of high intensity corresponding to the fundamental harmonic, with side lobes of lesser power. The problem with a system like this is that the wavelength is so long at these frequencies one would assume mutual interference effects would be smeared out so that they would have no effect at all. In any event it's difficult to see why a beam like this would have the effect Mr Fry claims.

Well, if infrasonics won't work, what about ultrasonics? If we forget about the power problems (which are still formidable, but not as bad as with infrasonics), it at least becomes possible to see why flying foxes might stay away. The foxes can hear ultrasonic frequencies, so they might find the scarecrows incredibly noisy. Of course that's a long way from Ron's claims, but we are clutching at straws here.

Dregs retires from the field, bloody and exhausted. How has he done it? I'm sure the whole idea violates all the normal laws of physics. Next month I'll show you how to move faster than light. In the meantime, if any of you can imagine how such a beam might work, let us know.

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